

CKET 42

ready to
key role
nst Poles

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES

35P

No. 65,903 FRIDAY MAY 30 1997

SPICE BOYS
Fall and rise of boy bands
ARTS
PAGE 35

FANTASY FORMULA ONE
Check your grid position
PAGE 40

THE SECRET SEVEN
Sue Cameron on people who pull the strings in Downing Street
PAGE 20

TOMORROW
WHY BE A COMMUTER?
How to work from home
22 PAGE GUIDE
MAGAZINE

Leaders seal 'unbreakable alliance' with jobs action plan and plea for peace in Ulster

Clinton and Blair hail new partnership

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

PRESIDENT CLINTON told the IRA to lay down their guns for good yesterday as he and Tony Blair put moves to win peace in Northern Ireland and the worldwide creation of jobs at the heart of a new Anglo-American partnership.

On a day of serious talking, socialising and displays of mutual admiration, the two men hailed "a new generation of politics and a new generation of leadership".

Standing side-by-side in the Downing Street rose garden, the Prime Minister said that they were of a generation that preferred reason to doctrine. "It is strong on ideals but indifferent to ideology, whose instinct is to judge government not on grand designs but by practical results."

Mr Clinton echoed the sentiment, saying: "I don't think it is the end of ideology, but I think it is the end of yesterday's ideology."

Mr Clinton also paid tribute to the "unique partnership" between America and Britain, inviting the Prime Minister to visit Washington soon. "Over the last 50 years our unbreakable alliance has helped to bring our people unparalleled peace and prosperity and security."

As their wives took lunch at 11 Downing Street before going to the Shakespearean repertory Globe Theatre, the leaders cemented their friendship and tried to show they could do business together. They sealed the new relationship by unveiling a two-year initiative to promote jobs



They go back a long way - yesterday morning, wasn't it?

through encouraging flexible job markets, acting to reduce the growing underclass dependent on benefits, and reducing employers' costs.

The idea will be pursued through America's presidency of the G7 group of industrial nations and by Britain when it takes over next year. The two leaders will formally put the plan to the G7 summit in Denver next month and Gordon Brown will chair a special meeting of finance and employment ministers in Britain next January. A full action programme is expected to be agreed at next year's G7 summit in Birmingham.

Mr Clinton also delighted his host by backing British calls for an unequivocal IRA ceasefire before Sinn Fein could be allowed into all-party talks, and telling the Republi-

cans that they would have to compromise.

In perhaps his strongest intervention so far, Mr Clinton said: "You can't say 'we'll talk and shoot - talk when we're happy and shoot when we're not'. Every political process in the world is a struggle for principled compromise, which means when it's over, no one is 100 per cent happy."

It was tragic for Northern Ireland "to move into the 21st century with the shackles of almost primitive hatred" raging between its peoples. But he stopped short of saying how quickly Sinn Fein should be allowed into talks if a ceasefire were announced. Mr Clinton said efforts to clinch a lasting peace could succeed only if there was an unequivocal ceasefire, in deed and in word.

"Again, I urge the IRA to lay down their guns for good. We have a new British Government that has taken what are, I think, wise and judicious steps and made statements that I think are clear, unequivocal and appropriate," he said. And while it was up to the parties involved to bring about a settlement, he promised: "We'll be there, active and involved, along the way."

Earlier Mr Clinton had become the first American president for nearly 30 years to address a British Cabinet, telling ministers that he had watched with enormous interest

Continued on page 2, col 6
Cabinet address, page 2
First ladies, page 3



America's First Couple, Bill and Hillary Clinton, being welcomed at the steps of No 10 Downing Street by Tony and Cherie Blair yesterday

Yuppie soulmates take in dinner and a show

By Alan Hamilton

THE Clintons came to London yesterday intent on having a ball. It was, after all, the last day of their European mini-break before having to return home and confront that unfortunate court business concerning Paula Jones.

It all went hugely well. Bill was among old buddies, the sun warmed the capital to a late spring simmer, no one threw him awkward questions about his past life, and he received a rare accolade for a visiting head of

state - a round of restrained and dignified table-thumping from the British Cabinet.

For a Government that does not object to being occasionally portrayed as a mite puritanical, even a touch Cromwellian, it was an expansive gesture indeed to an American soulmate of new Labour. Only John Prescott managed to maintain a steady glower throughout.

But a truer gesture of new-found Anglo-American solidarity occurred last night, when the Blairs took the

Clintons to dinner at the Pont de la Tour restaurant near the south side of Tower Bridge, an expensive establishment set up by Sir Terence Conran, whose prices even in normal times confine the clientele largely to successful young lawyers and media executives.

Air Force One touched down at Heathrow from The Hague at 10.20 in the morning, and an 12-vehicle motorcade, including three black bulletproof Cadillacs and the obligatory ambulance, accompanied by a swarm of

police outriders, drilled through the London traffic to deliver the Clintons at 10 Downing Street at 11.15, fifteen minutes ahead of schedule. The seasoned commuter knows that half-term week is a good time to drive in London. Had they arrived any earlier, they would have caught a Downing Street workman rolling out the red carpet and picking bits of fluff from it.

The Blair Government is a shirtsleeves, no-nonsense administration, and its headquarters are in a very

Continued on page 2, column 3

Scrawny cat of the lottery

The man who runs Spain's "El Gordo" lottery, the world's richest, earns £30,000 a year, compared with the Camelot Chief Executive, Tim Holley, who scoops a £590,000 salary package.

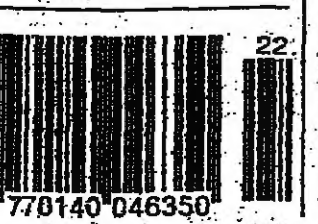
In a good year, Luis Perezguzman can also collect a profit-related bonus estimated at £6,000. Pages 11, 21

Al Fayed takes over Fulham

Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, became chairman and major shareholder of Fulham Football Club, which has just moved up to the second division. He promised heavy investment "to restore the club to its former glory", including new players and improvements to the stadium.

Breaking the Times overseas: ANKOR 250, 40, Belgium 8, 100; Cyprus 11, 20; Denmark 10, 100; Finland 10, 100; France 10, 100; Germany 10, 100; Greece 10, 100; Hong Kong 10, 100; India 10, 100; Italy 10, 100; Japan 10, 100; Korea 10, 100; Malaysia 10, 100; Mexico 10, 100; New Zealand 10, 100; Norway 10, 100; Portugal 10, 100; Singapore 10, 100; South Africa 10, 100; Spain 10, 100; Sweden 10, 100; Switzerland 10, 100; Taiwan 10, 100; Thailand 10, 100; The Netherlands 10, 100; USA 10, 100; Venezuela 10, 100.

The Times on the Internet: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Euro fear grows as Kohl's clash with bank widens

By PATIENCE WHEATCROFT, City Editor

THE future of the European economic and monetary union was hanging in the balance last night, as the controversy between the German Government and the Bundesbank appeared to intensify.

Although the European Commission is insisting that the move towards economic and monetary union will continue on schedule, bankers and politicians throughout Europe are increasingly sceptical that the current timetable can be met, and many feel that EMU may have to be abandoned, at least temporarily.

The likelihood of a Socialist Government taking control in France after Sunday's second round of balloting, coupled with the German debacle, is casting doubt on the whole question of monetary union, with many pundits now believing that a single hard currency looks impossible to achieve.

"The Bundesbank's move leaves EMU looking dead in the water," David Marsh, a German expert with the bankers Robert Fleming, said after talking to leading members of the Bundesbank's policy-making council in Frankfurt. The German Government's efforts to revalue its gold reserves to meet the monetary stability criteria for entering EMU came under increasing criticism yesterday, both in Germany and abroad. In



6 If Kohl falls the whole EMU structure will crash down?

Anatole Kaletsky..... 29
Charles Bremner..... 13
Leading article..... 21
EMU worries..... 25

London, Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor and most pro-European of the contenders for the Tory leadership, fully backed the Bundesbank's opposition to the move and said it pointed to the need for a postponement of the 1999 start for EMU.

"It strengthens all the arguments for delay, and it may be a substantial delay, because it would be quite wrong if any country were to go ahead unless they were genuinely convergent," Mr Clarke said. The suggestion, from Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, that the country should revalue its gold reserves to meet the convergence criteria has incensed the

Bundesbank, whose members have condemned it as "creative accounting" and "cooking the books". Yesterday the opposition Social Democrat Party called for Herr Waigel's resignation, saying his greed had ruined Germany's reputation as the champions of monetary stability.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, a former close ally of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, is said to be ready to resign if the Government insists on pressing ahead with the gold revaluation. Other Bundesbank directors, including Otmar Issing, an outspoken critic of the gold revaluation scheme, would almost certainly follow Herr Tietmeyer's lead, pushing the Chancellor's position further into crisis.

The Bundesbank has little to lose from the battle. In a fully fledged EMU, it would lose its power as a central bank. As one observer put it: "The members would be prepared to die for a good cause but they will not be sacrificed for a bad one."

Mr Clarke said he believed the Bundesbank's advice that the scheme should be abandoned was right and that the German Government should pay attention. "Politically, they would be unwise to charge ahead in the teeth of this kind of advice," he said.

But the official line from the European Commission is that the timetable for EMU re-

Continued on page 2, col 3

Slimming pills led depressed mother to theft, judge says

By Stephen Farrell

A WOMAN bank clerk who stole £2,300 while on slimming pills escaped jail yesterday after a judge criticised the pressures on women to stay thin.

Tania Kilford, 31, claimed her behaviour was altered by side effects from the slimming tablets she took while suffering post-natal depression.

Judge Stephen Lloyd at Lewes Crown Court heard that Kilford, a TSB bank clerk from Portlady, Sussex, was of "impeccable" character before coming under pressure to go back to work and lose weight after the birth of her second child.

The judge told her: "There was pressure upon you to return to work perhaps earlier than you would have wished

and earlier than was good for you... it was added to considerably by that other modern pressure of being slim."

Kilford admitted two charges of theft, two of obtaining property by deception and asked for 25 other offences to be considered. She has since paid back all the money.

Andrew Collings, defending, said Kilford and her husband had no financial worries and did not need the items she bought, which included a lavatory. Her behaviour was "totally illogical", he said.

"There was pressure put on her, not least by her husband, to regain her figure," he said. "She went to the Surrey Diet Clinic and was given prescribed drugs. She simply walked in off the street and explained the position and handed the money over. She was not at any stage given any advice about side effects nor that she should be monitored. She then began offending."

The judge said the thefts would normally merit a jail term but accepted the mitigating circumstances. Sentencing her to 180 hours' community service and to pay £220 costs, he said: "It's quite apparent to me that the combination of that depression with this drug did in my view lead you into totally unnatural behaviour."



Judge Lloyd: blamed pressure to be slim

BVLGARI

TV & RADIO	46, 47
WEATHER	24
CROSSWORDS	24, 48

LETTERS	21
OBITUARIES	23
MATTHEW PARRIS	20

ARTS	33-36
CHESS & BRIDGE	42
COURT & SOCIAL	22

SPORT	40-46, 48
EDUCATION	39
FEATURES	18, 19

Political wives go to see another young English leader prove himself, but they miss the ending

Cherie and Hillary show beats the Bard

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE faced some tough competition at the Globe Theatre yesterday. While the cast performed *Henry V*, two ladies seated in a box to the side of the stage performed a distracting double act that captivated the audience.

Cherie Blair and Hillary Clinton were said to have "got on like a house on fire" over lunch and by the time they reached the theatre were chatting animatedly. Downing Street said later that Mrs Clinton had been advising Mrs Blair on bringing up children in the public eye.

Mrs Clinton must have felt quite at home when she arrived at the Bard's reconstructed theatre. The place was full of folks from back home who had come to see the matinee, and were rather surprised to find their first Lady striding towards them across the foyer.

"Ah, Americanist," said a similarly astonished Mrs Clinton as she strode clomping to shake her hand.

Local schoolchildren were wheeled out to meet the two wives and an exhibition about the theatre was examined before the show commenced. The performers cheered to loud applause and, cheer. Then the cast of the play came on.

Mark Rylance, playing Henry — coincidentally, a new young leader seeking to prove himself in Europe — and the other poor professional thespians had to content themselves with an audience who were watching them out of the corners of their eyes. The problem was that the women and their party had been seated in one of the boxes conspicuously situated to the side of the stage. In Shakespeare's day, lords and ladies and other show-offs would sit and preen themselves there, as it is a spot specifically designed for those wishing to be seen rather than see. The sightlines are awful. Mrs Clinton

ton in particular frequently craned to see the action on stage.

She would also have missed Zoe Wanamaker, daughter of the American actor Sam Wanamaker whose brainchild it was to rebuild the Globe, shedding sentimental tears before the performance began in an adjoining box.

Down in the yard with the groundlings who stood for the performance, and led the boos whenever the French characters came on stage, was the production's director, Richard Olivier, son of Lord Olivier. "I wasn't asked to meet them," he said cheerfully. "I think they wanted to meet children, not me."

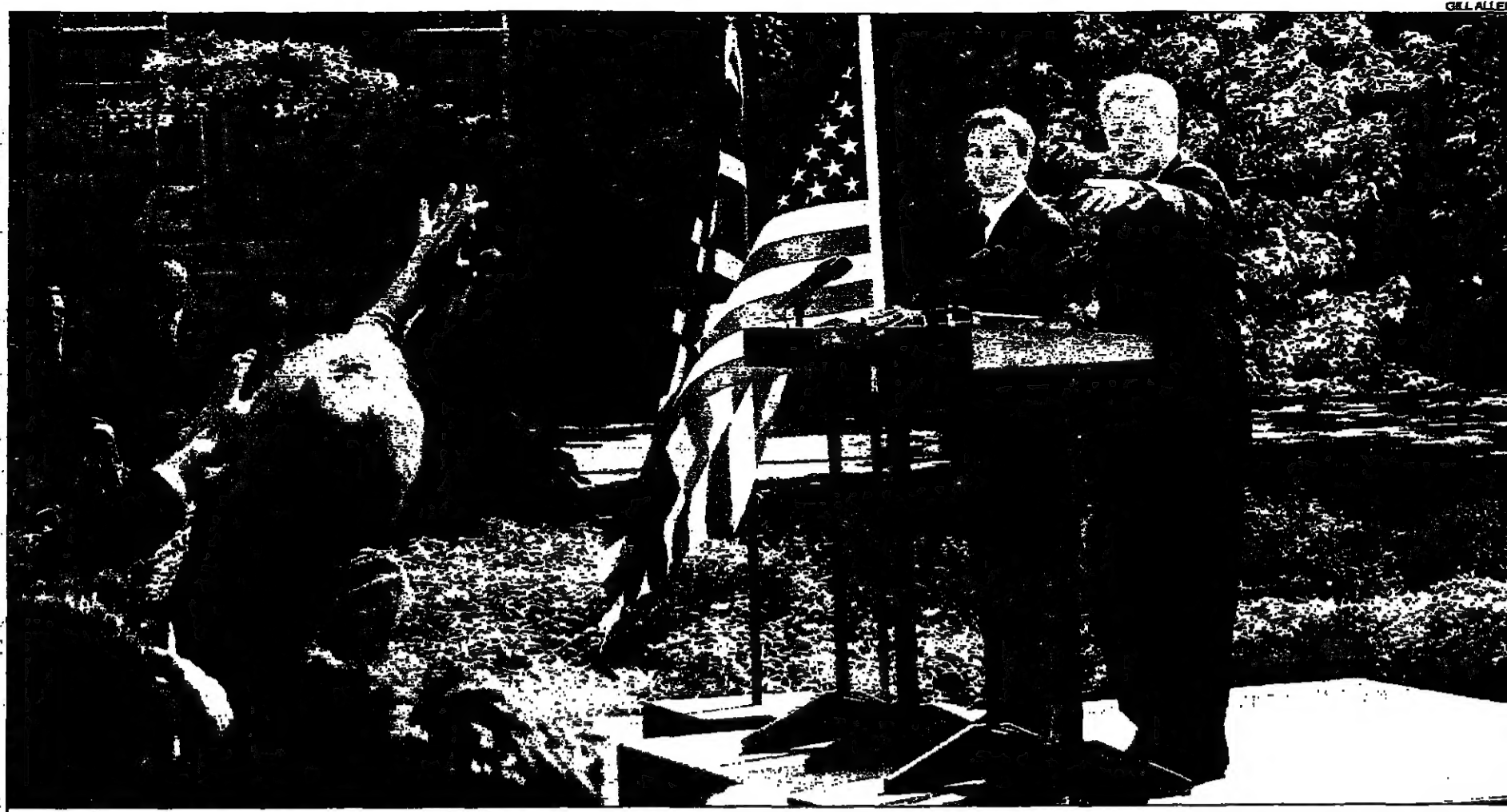
In hot sunshine more conducive to a post-prandial nap than sitting still under close scrutiny, the leading ladies did not let even the finest yawn escape during the hour of the show for which they stayed. Mrs Clinton laughed a lot but Mrs Blair did most of the talking between scenes. Mrs Clinton inched her chair closer to her new friend the better to hear.

The pair had lunched on sea bass and salad followed by lemon tart with just a couple of aides and Mrs Blair's sister Lindsay for company. A Downing Street spokesman said: "Mrs Clinton was full of sound advice about how to deal with the transition when you are also trying to raise children."

In their separate conversations, Mr Clinton told Mr Blair: "Make sure the children have space to lead as normal a life as possible, given the obvious constraints."

The Clintons have been dogged in preserving the privacy of their daughter Chelsea, who rarely appeared in public until last year when she went on tour to Eastern Europe with her mother and joined her father on the campaign trail. In her book *It Takes A Village* Mrs Clinton wrote: "If you bungle raising your children, I don't think whatever else you do matters very much."

There has been much media interest in the Blair youngsters — Euan, 13, Nicky, 11, and Kathryn, 9. Downing Street has already made an appeal to the media to respect the privacy of the children.



Mr Blair and President Clinton answering questions in the Downing Street rose garden yesterday. "Relaxed concentration is fatal in this business," Mr Clinton said

Outlook is rosy as Bill offers Tony a little honeymoon advice

The last time the press was called to the Downing Street rose garden was in 1995 when John Major stunned them by announcing that he was resigning the Tory leadership (Philip Webster writes). Yesterday it was all harmony as British and American

journalists assembled in the blazing sunshine to await the leaders. The Prime Minister and President Clinton posed for a while on the balcony, Tony Blair apparently pointing out to the President the features of the garden, and then they walked round

to their podiums, past a bird table. Keeping their jackets on, they took it in turns to invite questions. Mr Blair started by calling his guest President Clinton, but later he became "Bill". Mr Clinton was repeatedly pressed to give Britain's new Gov-

ernment advice, and eventually agreed to do so, noting that his own "honeymoon" in office had lasted about "35 seconds". The President said that "real people", who had to worry every day about how to feed and educate their children, wanted

to know that his government was "at the task", adding: "My only advice is to maintain the same level of concentration in administration that was shown by all of Labour in the campaign. Relaxed concentration is fatal in this business."

What a difference a good cut makes

By GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

ONLY seven years separate Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair, but yesterday their clothes revealed a gaping generational gap.

Both wore knee-length jackets, but what a difference in the cut. Were Diana, Princess of Wales, to stand next to the Queen, there could scarcely be a greater contrast of styles.

At 42, Mrs Blair looked

svelte and glamorous. The tailored frock-coat emphasised her slim waist and flattered her legs, flaring out to stop just above the knee. Mrs Clinton's coat appeared to have been cut to cover. Let anyone should catch a glimpse of her figure, she had buttoned it securely to the neck.

Even the colours smacked of different eras. While Mrs

Blair wore grey, one of this year's discreetly fashionable colours, Mrs Clinton went for blue. Blue may be the colour this summer, but the First Lady's choice was more from summers of the 1960s.

Both wore court shoes, but Mrs Blair's were a little higher, helping her to create a long, lean line. Not daring to bare, both had opted for nude-look summer tights. Mrs Clinton's appeared to have a gloss finish.

But if Mrs Blair looked the part of the first lady, it was Mrs Clinton who played it best. After 4½ years in the White House, she has perfected the distant expression and uncompromising wave. With her hesitant wave and meek smile, Mrs Blair looked more like a newly appointed head girl. While her husband changed for dinner, Mrs Clinton wore the same outfit.



Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair outside No 10

Eagle landed with mobile protection

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

IT TOOK 12 vehicles to get President and Mrs Clinton from Heathrow to Downing Street. While other long-suffering motorists were taking up to an hour or more to get to central London, the Clinton motorcade made the 17.7-mile journey in 35 minutes.

Courtesy of Metropolitan Police motorbike outriders, the presidential motorcade swept

task of protecting "The Eagle" and "The Evergreen", as Mr and Mrs Clinton are known to the Secret Service.

Heading the convoy was a Metropolitan Police Rover saloon containing armed officers from Scotland Yard's Special Escort Group. Other vehicles included a Metropolitan Police armoured-plated Daimler, crewed by officers from Special Branch's A Squad, responsible for protecting VIPs: the presidential limousine; a bomb-proof Cadillac; a black American pick-up crammed full of Secret Service men and women whose job is to put themselves between a potential assassin and the President and who had been given special permission from British authorities to carry their own weapons: a military ambulance and mobile hospital; and bringing up the rear, three press buses.

SECURITY

along in the outside lane of the M4. Then traffic at junctions was stopped as the vehicles passed, and on at least one occasion in central London the cavalcade crossed to the wrong side of the road to ensure that Mr and Mrs Clinton arrived on time at No 10.

The men and women who piled out of the motorcade when it arrived have the unenviable

Partnership

724854

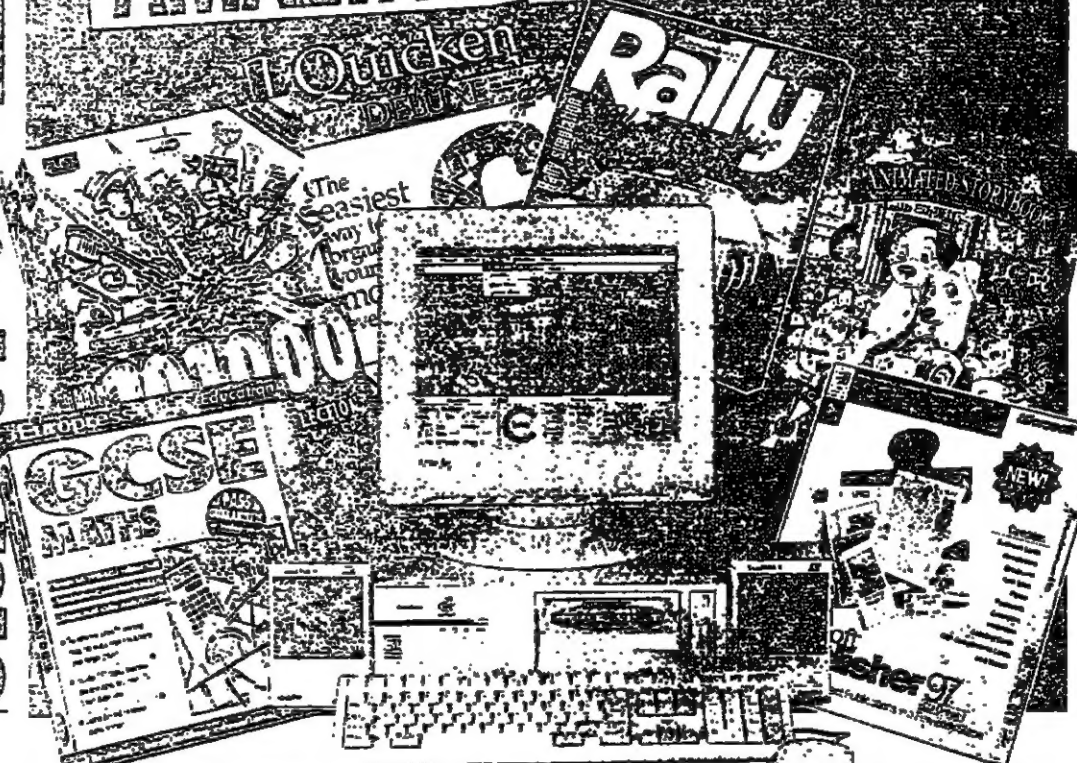


PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

NOT CHOICE FOR SOFTWARE

OVER 1500 TITLES AT AMAZING LOW PRICES



ALL THE LATEST GAMES RELEASES

THEME HOSPITAL Build and manage a hospital with limited funds. NEW £29.99	MDK Smash robots, lob grenades at tanks and blow away with your machine gun. £29.99	GRAND PRIX 2 Can you beat Damon Hill? Here's your chance to find out. £29.99	FIFA 97 The year's best selling football game with commentary by John Motson. £29.99	FORMULA 1 The former PlayStation No. 1 now on PC. £34.99	FLIGHT SIMULATOR V6 The best selling flight simulator on Windows 95. £39.99	COMANCHE 3 PLUS JOYSTICK The ultimate realistic helicopter simulation. Plus Acemaster Raza-30 Joystick. Total Separate Selling Price £69.98 SAVE OVER £20 £49.95
STAR TREK GENERATIONS Rated 95% by PC Gamer. Boldly go where no one has gone before with this latest Star Trek game. OUT NOW £34.99	RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP The year's most realistic rally game. £19.99	WING VS TIE FIGHTER Join the battle between the Rebel Alliance and Empire in the control of the galaxy. NEW £29.99	BUY 2 GET 1 FREE ON A RANGE OF BUDGET GAMES	RED ALERT/COUNTERSTRIKE TWIN PACK The original game plus mission disc with 16 extra missions. Total Separate Selling Price £34.98 £39.95	EXTREME VELOCITY PLUS JOYSTICK Three superb flight sim games. Plus Acemaster Raza-30 Joystick. Total Separate Selling Price £79.98 SAVE OVER £20 £59	BALANCED DIET Lose weight with the help of your PC. £19.99

PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| BRISTOL
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM
BIRMINGHAM | EAST MIDLANDS
GLoucester
GLoucester
GLoucester
GLoucester
GLoucester
GLoucester
GLoucester
GLoucester
GLoucester | NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM
NOTTINGHAM | LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON | LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON | LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON
LONDON |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|

BUSINESS SOFTWARE

OFFICE PACKAGES SAVE UP TO £200

MICROSOFT WINDOWS 95 3 IN 1 VALUE PACK
This superb value pack features three separate titles in one box. Includes MS Windows 95 Upgrade, MS Plus and MS Internet Starter Kit vs. Total Separate Selling Price £133.98.
SAVE OVER £40
£89

DRAGON SOLO
Voice recognition software. When bought with any PC Usual Price £158.
£79

MICROSOFT HOME ESSENTIALS 97
Amazingly low priced home package. Total Separate Selling Price £322.97.
£99

LOTUS SMARTSUITE 97 UPGRADE
The latest office suite from Lotus.
£149

DESKTOP PUBLISHING
SAVE UP TO £50

PAGIS PRO 97
The ultimate scanner software from Xerox. A must for all serious scanners. Offer applies when bought with any scanner.
£149

TEXTBRIDGE PRO UPGRADE
Set new standards in scanning.
£99

MICROSOFT PUBLISHER 97
Create high impact professional publications.
£99

QUICKEN V6
The ideal finance package for beginners.
£34.99

QUICKEN V6 DELUXE
The UK's best selling financial software.
£59

PEGASUS CAPITAL LITE
Choose from either Accounts or Payroll titles.
£99

SAGE INSTANT ACCOUNTS/ INSTANT PAYROLL TWIN PACK
Two small business titles in one package. Total Separate Selling Price £179.
£179

SAGE STERLING ACCOUNTS RANGE
Accountant Accountant Accountant Accountant Accountant Accountant Accountant Accountant Accountant Accountant
£399 £399 £399 £399 £399 £399 £399 £399 £399 £399

DESIGNER SAVE UP TO £30

CRISTACARD PLUS
The best way to create greetings cards and more. Was £29.95.
£19.99

MICROSOFT PICTURE IT
Create new views to other photos. Plus FREE camera. While stocks last. Was £79.99.
£49.99

COREL DRAW V4
Ideal graphics pack for beginners. Includes illustration, drawing and photo editing.
£49.99

COREL DRAW V6
The first 32 bit professional graphics package for under £100.
£99

MICROSOFT VISUAL C++ VS LEARNING
Learn to program in Visual C++ can be easy.
£79

MICROSOFT VISUAL BASIC 5 LEARNING
Learn to program on Windows 95 and NT.
£79

DELPHI 3
The latest programming language from Borland.
£99

UNBEATABLE SERVICE
EXPERT ADVICE & AFTER SALES SUPPORT

LOW PRICE PROMISE
We won't be beaten

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

CHILDREN'S SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE

PINGU
Kids can play a series of games with TV's most lovable penguin. Aimed at kids aged 3-6 with early learning puzzles and 5 great games.
FREE PINGU VIDEO worth £9.99
£24.99

FUNTSCHOOL ORANGE
Four children's titles in 1 box. Was £29.95.
£14.95

FUNTSCHOOL QUAD PACKS
Superb compilation pack with 4 children's titles. Was £29.99.
£19.99

NODDY - THE MAGIC OF TOYTOWN
Teach your children to write.
£24.99

CREATIVE WRITER 2
Teach your children to write.
£29.99

101 DALMATIANS PRINT STUDIO
NEW
£34.99

101 DALMATIANS Animated Storybook
NEW
£39.99

HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME GAMEBREAK
Free Hunchback Screen Saver.
£39.99

TOY STORY STORYBOOK
£39.99

GLOBAL LINK LANGUAGE RANGE
Choose from 4 titles: French, German, Italian and Spanish.
£29.99

LANGUAGE LABS FRENCH
Ideal for anyone who wants to learn French.
£19.99

LANGUAGE LABS GERMAN
Includes over 12 different learning styles.
£19.99

LEARN GREEK
Ideal for anyone wanting to visit Greece.
£19.99

PERFECT SPANISH
The complete Spanish language package.
£39.99

REFERENCE

STUDY AIDS

IBN WORLD BOOKS
The No.2 best selling encyclopedia in the UK. When bought with any PC Usual Price £49.99.
£24.99

ULTIMATE HUMAN BODY 2
The multimedia guide to the human body.
£29.99

EARTH QUEST
Find out the secrets of the planet.
£29.99

CHRONICLES OF THE 20TH CENTURY
Witness every day of our century every day of your life.
£29.99

CINEMANIA 97
The ultimate movie guide.
£29.99

BRITAIN'S HEALTH ENCYCLOPEDIA
As recommended by British Medical Association.
£39.99

ENCARTA 97
Free greetings workshop software.
£44.99

LEISURE INTEREST

FOOD & DRINK

HOME & GARDEN

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS
Create mouth-watering dishes with this superb multimedia cookbook.
£19.99

VISUAL HOME
Create your dream house. Includes New MMX Technology.
£49.99

GARDEN DESIGNER
Now you can create the garden of your dreams.
£19.99

GARDEN DESIGNER 2 & INTERIOR DESIGNER
Design your garden and the interior of your house.
£29.99

3D KITCHEN
Design the ultimate kitchen for your home.
£49.99

HOBBIES

MUSIC

ROUTE 66
Save Time, Save Hassle, Save Effort and Save Petrol with this route planner for Windows.
£29.99

SOLITAIRE
A favourite card game for all ages.
£14.99

LOTTERY
It could be you. Enter the National Lottery.
£14.99

BETTER GOLF
Take on the golf course and win.
£19.99

INTERNATIONAL SAILING
Sail the seven seas with this title.
£19.99

AUTOROUTE EXPRESS
Plan holidays and business trips around Europe.
£54.99

HOUSE & DANCE
All the latest music technology.
£19.99

TECHNO & TRANCE
Create your own sound.
£19.99

ROCK & POP
The greatest music.
£19.99

GUITAR HITS VOLUME 2
Learn to play your favourite songs on the guitar.
£39.99

STEINBECK COBALT
The ultimate piano software.
£119

Rifkind urged to lead breakaway party in Scotland

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A SENIOR Scottish Tory called yesterday for the creation of a separate Conservative Party north of the border to be led by Malcolm Rifkind, the former Foreign Secretary.

Brian Meek, leader of the Conservative group on Edinburgh council, said that the party, possibly called the New Scottish Tories, should have separate funding, a separate manifesto and its own leader. The new party's MPs would take the Tory whip at Westminster as a sister party to the English Tories.

Mr Meek, who is on the left of his party, said that if his proposal split the Tories in Scotland and led to his supporters standing as candidates against Tories who remained with the London-based party, it would dismay him but it would be "a risk worth taking".

Mr Meek was a member of Mr Rifkind's campaign team in Edinburgh Pentlands, which Mr Rifkind lost to Labour on May 1. During the

election campaign Mr Rifkind spoke of the dangers of devolution but he has softened his stance in recent days.

Using his column in the Glasgow newspaper *The Herald*, Mr Meek also derided the contenders to succeed John Major. "We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by going for a separate Scottish identity," he wrote. "We have nobody to please but our electorate."

"We need a new party with a changed name, linked but not handcuffed to the English Conservatives. It would be a party which... elected all its office-bearers and wrote its own contract/manifesto with the Scottish people," Mr Meek said that he was "sick of losing" and that the Tories in Scotland faced the "threat of extinction". He urged Scottish business to fund the new party, so as to have a voice in a Scottish parliament.

He dismissed John Redwood's opposition to constitu-

tional change in Scotland and said: "Messrs Lilley, Dorrell and Hague have made it plain they are about as well-briefed on Mongolian watercolours."

He has limited hopes of Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, saying that the imposition of VAT on fuel was "so unpopular in Scotland that it made the poll tax look like a roaring success".

The call for a breakaway has infuriated leaders of the Scottish Conservatives, who have called for a moratorium on discussions ahead of the Scottish party conference in Perth next month. One said: "Brian Meek's call is unhelpful and insensitive. It looks like self-promotion."

Annabel Goldie, chairman of the Scottish party, said: "The view expressed by Brian Meek is only one among many proposals which indicate the prospect of a stimulating and constructive debate at the conference in June."



Annabel Goldie, chairman of the Scottish Tories, said that their conference would discuss various proposals

Ancram support gives Hague campaign a lift

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE received a welcome boost to his flagging leadership campaign yesterday when Michael Ancram, the former Northern Ireland Minister, pledged his support.

Mr Hague's campaign had suffered a setback after a speech last week that was widely interpreted as an attack on John Major. But Mr Ancram's decision to back the former Welsh Secretary was seen by other campaign teams as a significant coup.

Mr Ancram is a centrist MP and has none of the right-wing trappings of other members on Mr Hague's team. His endorsement will allow the youngest leadership contender to claim cross-party support and present himself as a unity candidate.

"I am convinced that he is the man best equipped to fight the next election," Mr Ancram said yesterday. He added that Mr Hague alone had the ability to bring the Conservatives through a period on the Opposition benches and back to Downing Street.

"It is a long road ahead. He brings freshness, dynamism and the courage to grasp

difficult nettles such as party organisation and the review of policy."

Tonight Mr Hague, back from a two-day break, will try to move up a gear with a hard-hitting speech to constituency activists in Manchester. He will announce details of a huge structural shake up in the party organisation, including changes in the selection of candidates, agents and leadership rules.

The endorsement from Mr Ancram came as all six candidates stepped up their campaigning, each staking their claim to be the most effective Opposition leader.

Michael Howard, whose campaign lost momentum after the broadside from Ann Widdecombe, made a keynote speech to the Bow Group last night claiming that Tony Blair had made "ten blunders" in his first month of office. They included letting the Bank of England set interest rates; banning cigarette advertising; holding referendums on devolution before full details had emerged about the Scottish parliament; and changing Prime Minister's question

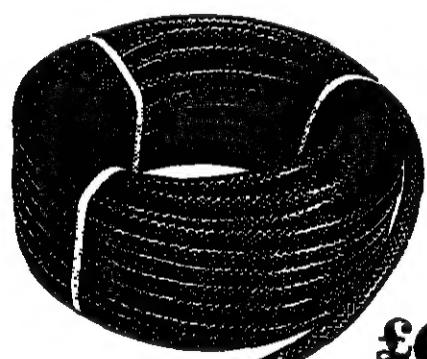
time to a half-hour slot on Wednesdays.

Mr Howard broadened his speech to warn against abandoning core Conservative beliefs or values in an attempt to win back power. In what was seen as a sideswipe against Kenneth Clarke, who has talked about new Conservatism, Mr Howard said the Tories could only learn techniques, not political salvation, by studying new Labour.

Stephen Dorrell meanwhile claimed that Mr Blair's honeymoon was over as he stepped up his campaign with a speech in Stratford-upon-Avon. He accused Labour of betraying Britain within its first month in power. It was "trampling roughshod over the delicate checks and balances of our unwritten constitution".

Peter Lilley last night launched a regional tour in Leeds. His team believe they are gaining ground from Mr Hague and that the main threat now is from Mr Clarke. They privately admit that Mr Clarke is likely to lead in the first ballot, and possibly the second, resulting in a run-off with Mr Lilley.

Hosery at sexy prices.



Hozelock 30 metre 3 Ply Hose Was £11.99

£32.99

Hozelock Thru Flow Hose Reel + 30m Hose Was £39.99 with FREE multi spray gun

£19.99



5 litre Hozelock Courier Sprayer Was £26.99 with FREE spraying kit



Hozelock Starter Set Was £8.49

£6.99



£8.99

Hozelock Spray Gun and Rose Was £10.99 with a FREE waterstop

£9.99

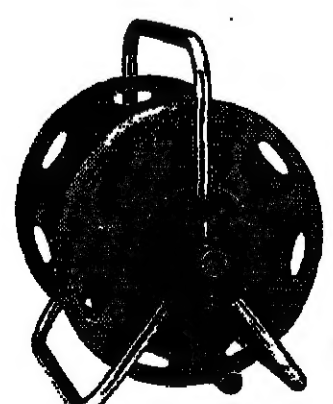


Lawn Queen 15 Sprinkler Was £13.99



£12.99

Super 4 Spraygun Was £16.99 with a FREE waterstop



£19.99

Hozelock 60 metre Thru Flow Hose Reel Was £24.99

DO IT ALL
LET'S DO UP BRITAIN!

DO IT ALL HELPLINE Free help and advice 7 days a week 0800 436 436

Offers subject to availability.

Bad health may have gone to the heart of Dylan



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

BOB DYLAN is reported to be suffering from pericarditis, an inflammation of the membranous bag that contains the heart within the chest, as a result of infection with histoplasmosis. This is an infectious disease caused by bacteria or viruses but by one of the systemic fungal diseases.

Such systemic fungal diseases — affecting deep-seated organs — are rare in Britain in patients whose resistance to infection has not been lowered by other conditions such as diabetes, chronic lung infections, chronic malignant disease, renal disease, TB, alcoholism, persistent drug abuse or, in recent years, Aids. Treatment with some prescribed drugs, in particular steroids, can also predispose patients to the infection.

Until Aids became comparatively common, very few British doctors would ever have been confronted with a case of histoplasmosis but in patients with Aids a widely disseminated infection with histoplasma is often the terminal event.

In parts of the United States, histoplasmosis has always been more common, especially in the eastern states and the Mid West, particularly in large river valleys. The initial infection, caught by inhaling dust containing the spores of the fungus, usually settles in the lungs. The symptoms — cough, fever, weight loss — are similar to other chest infections and have to be distinguished from TB and other causes of bronchitis, pneumonia and upper respiratory tract disease. Diseases such as sarcoidosis and Hodgkin's can also be confused with histoplasmosis but the diagnosis is confirmed by growing fungus from the patient's spit, lymph glands, or ulcers, in the laboratory.

Sometimes it is localised to the lungs where, like TB, it can cause cavitation and fibrosis — destruction of lung tissue and scarring. In some cases the 'histoplasma fungi' are carried from the lungs in the bloodstream to other organs,

usually the liver, the spleen, lymph glands or the gut. If the disease spreads to the root of the lungs, it can cause severe fibrosis.

In Dylan's case it has apparently spread to the covering of the heart, the pericardium. Such inflammation is a very rare complication in what is usually a rare disease.

Once histoplasmosis has spread, amphotericin is the anti-fungal drug of choice but it has to be given intravenously. Side effects are common and the treatment is not without risk. Such troubles as diarrhoea, nausea, headaches and joint pains can be tolerated but the patient's general condition has to be carefully monitored. Blood has to be checked regularly to see that liver and kidney functions are not damaged and blood cells are not dangerously reduced.

Amphotericin can also damage the heart and some patients have an acute allergic reaction. The speed and extent of a patient's recovery depend on the general state of health and the presence of any underlying disease or condition that might affect their resistance. Treatment with amphotericin is usually effective in ridding the body of the organism but cannot redress any damage that it may already have caused.

A long convalescence is needed to restore general health.



Dylan: would need long convalescence

Silence continues as stars visit hospital

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

BOB DYLAN's condition remained a mystery yesterday as his manager and record company refused to comment.

The singer was taken to hospital on Wednesday, just days before a British tour was due, after being struck down by histoplasmosis, a potentially fatal infection caused by fungus in the coronary sac.

Calls to Jeff Kravner, Dylan's manager in Los Angeles, were diverted to Columbia Records, whose spokesman said only that he was "being well looked after". All the main New York

hospitals denied that Dylan had been admitted into their care. However, a number of rock stars, including Bruce Springsteen, were spotted at the city's Cornell Medical Centre, raising speculation that they may have been visiting him.

Doctors said that the illness could be exacerbated by a run-down condition. Like many from the 1960s counterculture, he has been a smoker and drinker and has used hallucinogenic substances, all of which can weaken resistance to a coronary fungus.

مكتبة امين الاول

The ultimate recreational vehicle.

Of all the journeys made by off-road vehicles, probably around 0.0001% are actually off-road.

The rest are spent cruising around on tarmac - nipping to the supermarket, picking up the children, etc.

So why let off-road capability compromise sure footed, saloon-like handling on the road?

And why, when petrol is so expensive, waste energy by powering all four wheels all the time?

Five years ago, we decided to build a car that was better suited to reality.

Consequently, the power from the CR-V's engine is normally channelled to the front wheels only.

But if they start to lose traction, the 'intelligent' dual pump system diverts some power to the rear wheels.

So when you leave the tarmac for the mud track, you don't have to pull a lever to switch from one mode to the other.

Instead, four-wheel drive is automatically engaged, ready to tackle the treacherous terrain that will make up 0.0001% of your mileage.

Back on the road, race-bred double wishbone suspension and a low centre of gravity give you the agility and stability you normally expect only from a saloon.

The CR-V's engine, although a 2-litre, actually occupies the same space as an ordinary 1.6.

Therefore we were able to reduce the size of the engine bay and give rear passengers extra legroom. The engine is also lighter, improving both performance and fuel economy.

But enough of technical wizardry, what about picnics?

Open the door to the luggage area and you'll find a removable floor-level lid, revealing a waterproof storage compartment. (Or a hideaway.)

Study the lid and you'll find it's got sturdy

fold-down legs, which convert it into a useful picnic table.

Have a picnic and you'll find it'll rain, so you can toss the sodden tablecloth into the waterproof compartment and cover it up with the lid.

If you'd rather get drenched voluntarily, you can order the CR-V's optional shower. (Yes, a shower.) If you're partial to a chilled drink or two, you can opt for the fridge.

And if you'd like some shelter from the sun or the rain, you can choose the optional canopy, under which you can enjoy your canapés.

The CR-V is full of thoughtful little touches.

There's a power socket in the luggage compartment, which you can use to power your fridge, or shower, or air-bed pump, or what have you.

There are umpteen storage areas, stowage holes, hooks, lidded boxes, etc, which you can use to keep the car tidy.

There's even a centrally positioned sunroof, which you can use to shed extra light on the rear as well as the front.

But as important as all these details are, there's nothing more important than safety.

Therefore, you'll find ABS brakes, twin airbags, side impact protection bars, even head restraints on the rear seats. The high driving position and excellent all-round visibility help you to spot trouble before it spots you.

And, fundamentally, the monocoque design of the bodysell places you in an exceptionally rigid cage.

The LS costs £16,995 on the road. The ES, which offers air-conditioning and several other refinements, costs £17,995.

For more information about the ultimate recreational vehicle,

call 0345 159 159. Think about it.

Do you want a road car that can go off-road, or an off-roader that wallows around on the road?



HONDA
First man, then machine.



THE NEW CR-V. A 16-valve fridge, shower and picnic table.

8 HOME NEWS

School task force sets the Saint against the Demon

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DAVID BLUNKETT, the Education Secretary, will today announce a new task force on raising school standards, headed by two deeply opposed figures, regarded by teachers as a demon and a saint.

Mr Blunkett will chair the body, but has chosen as his deputies Chris Woodhead, the man demonised by teachers for his tough stance on standards and calls for traditional teaching, and Tim Brighouse, a hero to many teachers because of his pioneering methods as chief education officer in Birmingham.

Professor Brighouse has been one of the chief critics of Mr Woodhead's Ofsted, which he described in January as "a reign of terror".

Mr Blunkett will make the announcement at the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers in Scarborough. The exact relation of the new body to Ofsted and to the Government's new standards and effectiveness unit, set up three weeks ago, was unclear last night, but friends of Mr Woodhead said he was prepared for a fight to preserve Ofsted's independence.

Both men will remain in their posts but head teachers yesterday saw the plan as an attempt to control Mr Woodhead. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat's spokesman on education, said Mr Woodhead's wings had been clipped. The chief inspector was criticised last year by the Institute of Education, the country's foremost teacher training centre, for "political bias" in his reports.

Earlier this year he suggested extra league tables and



Professor Tim Brighouse, 57, represents the education establishment which Chris Woodhead criticises for its "woolly" thinking. A former deputy education officer at the Inner London Education Authority, he successfully sued John Patten, the former Education Secretary, for calling him "a nutter". Mr Patten agreed in the High Court in 1994 to apologise and pay damages of about £50,000. Professor Brighouse is seen as being rewarded for pioneering Labour education policies in Birmingham, including testing for five-year-olds in their first term. He proposed putting the names of successful teachers on the back of buses. He said yesterday: "I consider this [appointment] a reflection of people wanting to bring into the sunlight the energy and skilful practices of staff in Birmingham's schools."



Chris Woodhead, 50, has waged a personal crusade against incompetent teachers during his three years as Chief Inspector of Schools which has not endeared him to the profession. As an English teacher at the start of his career, colleagues said he espoused the trendy methods he would later condemn. A former teacher trainer and education officer in Devon and Cornwall, he became chief English adviser in Shropshire. There he became convinced of the importance of traditional grammar. He dismisses much that is written by education academics as "woolly, simplistic, or otherwise corrupt". But his blunt re-writing of some inspection reports, such as last year's damning survey of English teaching in three London boroughs, led to claims that he was a "political poodle" of the Conservative Government.

rag to a bull. A more considered reaction would be that this is the Government's way of bringing the chief inspector under more direct control. Whether it stops him behaving as a loose cannon, only time will tell.

"The last thing we want to see is a task force which is a vehicle for peddling Chris Woodhead's particular beliefs. Thank goodness his appointment is balanced by that of Tim Brighouse. His presence will provide some reassurance that we are not going to see an attempt to impose particular teaching methods."

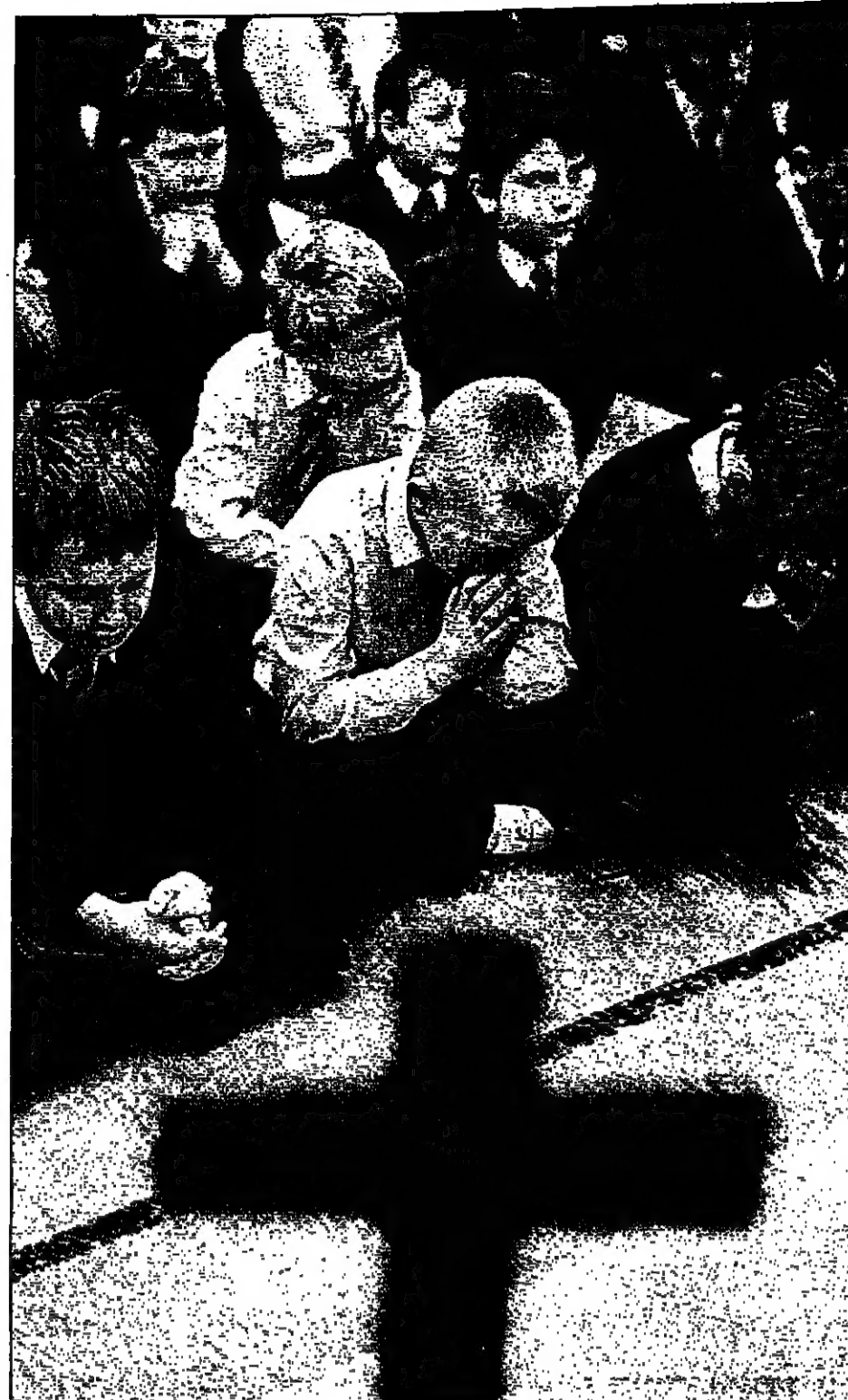
Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "As with all task forces, judgment has to be reserved until we see the product. Providing support for schools will certainly be a challenge for Mr Woodhead."

Mr Foster said: "This is a clear attempt to rein in Chris Woodhead, to require that, before he makes any of his over-the-top remarks, he has to discuss them with other senior people first."

A school in north London yesterday became the first failing school to be closed by the Government. St Richard of Chichester, a Roman Catholic secondary school in Camden, is to close next summer.

Education officials in Camden applied in January to close the school, which fell into a spiral of decline after being judged as failing three years ago. Inspectors found that pupils' behaviour was disruptive, classes were of a low standard and attendance was poor. Ten per cent regularly skipped lessons, placing the school in the bottom six for attendance in the country.

Leading article, page 21



Children during prayers at Wycliffe Middle School in Shipley, west Yorkshire

Heads seek to abolish daily acts of worship

By DAVID CHARTER

HEAD teachers promised yesterday to press for the abolition of daily prayers because schools feel it is hypocritical and impractical to enforce worship. A succession of heads, including the chairman of the Association of Christian Teachers, spoke against the law which requires a daily act of worship.

Last year 90 per cent of primary schools and 25 per cent of secondary schools obeyed the law, down from 100 per cent at primaries and 60 per cent at secondaries in 1993.

Chris Nye, head of Park Primary School in Gloucester, said: "My father was an archdeacon, my uncle's a bishop and my brother-in-law is a vicar. None of them goes to an organised act of worship every day."

Diana Wayne, head of Cardwell Junior School in Cornwall, proposed abolition for a variety of reasons, including unease over "indoctrinating" children. "We have a rota of volunteer children who read a prayer of their choice. It is very contrived."

Simon Marsh, chairman of the Association of Christian Teachers, called for debate across all faiths on new guidance for worship in schools. "Worship is a voluntary act of homage and love given to the God one freely serves. I am convinced that to enforce a hypocritical act does more harm to faith than almost anything else," he said.

Liz Paver, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, said she would make abolition her personal aim during her year in office.

Dons prepare to vote against revised plans for Oxford business studies

By MARK HENDERSON

OXFORD University faced fresh hostility yesterday to its plans to build a £40 million business school partly funded by a Syrian-born millionaire after a compromise scheme was announced.

Dons who blocked moves to site the Wafic Rida Said Business School on a sports field in central Oxford said that they were not satisfied with the university's re-

vised plans for the school, which would now be built on a disused goods yard near the railway station. The university is hopeful that its revised blueprint, published in full in the *Oxford University Gazette* today, will meet the concerns of most dons about the protection of green space.

Fellows are to vote on the new plans in Congregation on June 17. Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, Dr Peter North, said: "I hope the university

will unite to show its commitment to making management studies an additional focus for Oxford's tradition of academic excellence."

The original proposal to build the school on the Merton College sports ground in Mansfield Road was rejected by Congregation, the university's parliament, by 259 votes to 214 in a heated debate last November. Many dons opposed the use of a greenfield site which was given to the university in 1964

on the condition that it remain a sports ground in perpetuity. Others expressed concerns about the school's accountability, the secrecy with which the plans were developed, and Mr Said's alleged involvement in arms-dealing.

Mr Said, who lives in Britain, has threatened to withdraw his £20 million donation if a home for the school is not found by June 21. He said: "I hope that the new site will provide a better foundation

upon which to build broad support for the new school."

Dr Alexander Murray, a medieval history fellow at University College and a leading opponent of the school, said that although the site was more appropriate there were still serious constitutional obstacles to accepting the plan. Dr Murray said it remained unclear how strong Mr Said's representation would be on the board of trustees. "We have to accept that if

we don't have overall control we lay ourselves open to excessive influence from people with slightly different motives to us," he said.

Mr Said had originally hoped to appoint six of the ten trustees, and it is understood he agreed in two independent trustees, to ally the concerns of fellows about the business school's accountability to the university.

Dr Mike Woodin, a psychology don at Balliol College and a Green

Party city councillor, said the compromise did not resolve his doubts about the school. "There will still be concerns about the degree to which Mr Said will have control over the business school's activities," he said. "We will fight to be sure there are no strings attached to the donation."

The land on the station forecourt has long been disused and has previously attracted proposals for hotels and a science park to be built.

*Survey undertaken by NOP Market Research among 1,000 randomly selected bank customers. Interviews were conducted by telephone between 20 Nov 1996 and 12 Dec 1996. Enquiries must be aged 16 or over. In order to safeguard our customers, certain transactions may require written confirmation. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. First Direct credit facilities are subject to status. For written details of our services write to First Direct, Freeport, Leeds LS98 2RF. First Direct is a division of Midland Bank plc. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded. LLOYDS Cheque Account details are based on the Classic Account. The costs of a cheque are £3 per month. BARCLAYS Cheque Account details are based on the Barclays Bank Account. The costs of a cheque are £3 per month. NAT WEST Cheque Account details are based on the Current Plus Account. The costs of a cheque are £3 per month. All fees may vary in the future. First Direct variable interest rate for overdrafts up to £250 is 12.4% EAR. All information based on authorised overdrafts of 5 days or more per month and correct at 11 March 1997. Member HSBC Group

Why pay to bank when First Direct is free?

Annual current account charges

(annual fees for use of £250 overdraft)

Lloyds Classic	£96.00
NatWest Current Plus	£60.00
Barclays Bank Account	£60.00
First Direct Cheque Account	£0.00

If you're paying more are you with the right bank?
0800 24 24 24

Call free or complete the coupon and post to:
First Direct, FREEPOST, Leeds LS98 2RF

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms or Title _____
Surname _____
Forename(s) _____
UK Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone No _____

Free from charges

Banking with First Direct is free because we do not charge Cheque Account customers for everyday banking transactions, even if you're overdrawn. And all our customers automatically receive an overdraft up to £250 - also free of any fees. So compared to other high street bank accounts you're better off with First Direct from day one. We're a member of the HSBC Group which is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, and in the course of a year you'll find we offer more cost effective current account banking. And the service we provide means you benefit in many other ways too.

By telephone, 24 hours a day

We provide the ultimate in convenience. You can bank with us at any time, 365 days (and nights) of the year, from wherever there's a telephone, in your home, office or car. And all UK calls are charged at local rates.

Personal and professional service

Every call is answered by our Banking Representatives. They have all they need at their fingertips to deal with your day-to-day banking needs. And when you require more specialised assistance, such as a loan, they can instantly refer you to someone who can help.

Getting cash is easy

Every Cheque Account customer receives the First Direct Card. This allows you to withdraw up to £500 a day from over 12,500 cash machines around the UK, including those of Midland. It also guarantees cheques for £100 and includes the Switch payment facility.

So is paying bills

Our service includes a free bill payment service. Simply call, tell us who to pay, how much and when, and we do it. This means you can arrange to pay your bills at the most convenient time without the need to keep having to remember to organise it.

A full banking service with more benefits

As well as our Cheque Account we offer saving, borrowing, travel and insurance services cost effectively by telephone. Take saving: our rates are always competitive, we offer transfers to and from your Cheque Account. So your money is always working hard without the need for you to do the same.

We work hard to maintain the service

The best people to demonstrate the quality of a banking service are its customers - 87% of ours have recommended us to their friends and colleagues in the last 12 months.

Opening an account is easy too

We also appreciate how daunting changing bank accounts can be. So we make it easy. Easy to open a First Direct account, then easy to arrange for your salary to be paid in and easy for all your standing orders and direct debits to be transferred to your account. And it's easy (and free) to find out more right now. Call us on 0800 24 24 24 or complete the coupon.

first direct



Freedom and independence are always round the corner with a Sunrise Scoota.

Each and every model is safe, comfortable and easy to ride, whether you're at home, in town or in the country.

Every one of our Scootas is 100% designed and built in Britain and has been exhaustively researched and tested by our experts.

And did you know, you can even travel on the road without having to worry about a licence or road tax.

FOR A COPY OF OUR COLOUR BROCHURE AND FREE VIDEO, CALL THE NUMBER BELOW OR FILL IN AND POST THE COUPON.

CALL FREE
0800 16 33 65

SUNRISE MOBILITY
IMPROVING PEOPLE'S LIVES

Please send me my FREE Sunrise Scoota colour brochure plus video.

Mr/Mrs/Ms. (Inc. initials) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

NTT 705

Send to: Sunrise Mobility, FREEPOST DD348, Wollaston, DY8 4BR.

Remains of 'first European' found in Spanish cave

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor, and Giles Tremlett

HUMAN remains said to be the oldest in Europe have been found in a cave at Atapuerca in northern Spain. The species, which its finders believe existed 800,000 years ago, may have been an ancestor of both Neanderthal Man and modern human beings.

The find almost doubles the known length of time that human beings have existed in Europe. A team led by Dr Antonio Rosas, of the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid, has named the species *Homo antecessor*.

Several segments of bone and teeth have been found, but the team's evidence is based primarily on a single facial bone from a boy, and other palaeontologists may be reluctant to accept a new species on such slender data. "We think we have enough information to define it in the proper sense of a new species," Dr Rosas says in *Science*. "But people are probably going to need

some time to accommodate this proposal."

If accepted, the find will further complicate the prehistory of man. Until now *Homo sapiens* and Neanderthal Man were believed to be descended from a species called *Homo heidelbergensis*, which lived half a million years ago. Boxgrove Man, found in West Sussex in 1994, is an example of this species.

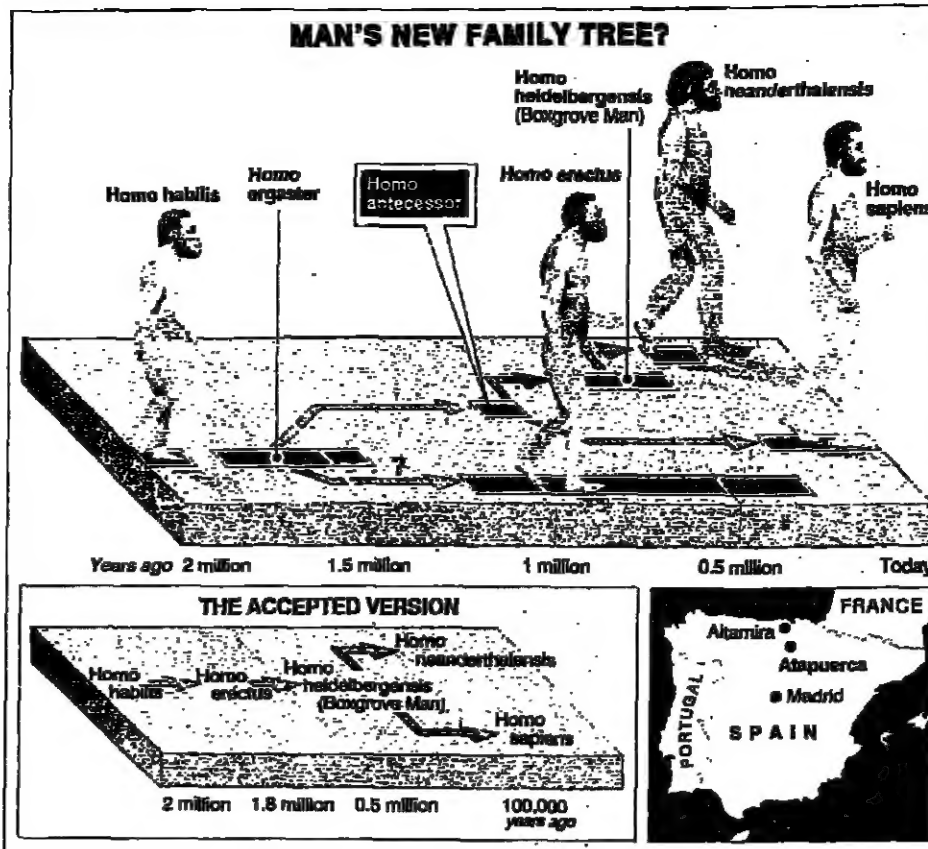
But the Spanish team believes their species has more in common with modern man than does *heidelbergensis*, and is older. They say that it evolved in Africa, probably about a million years ago, and began to spread north into Europe. "What we have done is confirm that humans have been here in Europe for nearly one million years," said Jose Maria Bermudez de Castro. "Others have argued that man has only been in Europe for around half a million years. But we believe we have intro-

duced new stability into the evolutionary scheme."

The fossils were found in a cave at Gran Dolina in the Atapuerca hills. The caves were exposed by railway workers in the 19th century, but not explored until 1994. The fossils have been dated, by the magnetisation of the layer of limestone in which they were found, to 780,000 years ago.

The most striking find, said team co-leader Juan Luis Arsuaga, of the University Complutense in Madrid, was the face of the boy. It had modern features, such as sunken cheekbones with a horizontal ridge where the upper teeth attach, and a projecting nose and mid-face. "We realised straight away it was modern-looking."

At the same time, it had archaic features such as a prominent brow ridge. This unusual combination of the old and new encouraged them



to believe that the bones came from a distinct species.

Palaeoanthropologists canvassed by *Science*, which publishes the description of the fossil today, were sceptical. "Given the evidence, I'm reluctant to endorse a new species," said Dr Philip Rightmire, of the State University of New York. Jean-Jacques Hublin, of

the National Centre for Scientific Research in Paris, took a similar view.

Soft tissue from a dinosaur has been found well-preserved in rocks in another part of Spain, a team led by Professor Derek Briggs, of the University of Bristol report, in the *Journal of the Geological Society*. It is only the second

time that skin has been reported. The bird-like species, *Pelecanimimus polydon*, lived 130 million years ago. It was preserved in fine limestone deposits. The fossils show wrinkles on the dinosaur's hide, a crest on its head and a pouch under its chin.

Photograph, page 24

Authorities criticised for Sea Empress spill

An independent analysis of the *Sea Empress* oil spill off Milford Haven in February last year calls for increased environmental protection from such disasters. It also says industry, government agencies and local authorities should be made more accountable when decisions affecting environmentally sensitive areas are taken.

Dr Neil Caldwell, former director of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales, and Dr Clive Morgan, former director of the Oil Pollution Research Unit, are highly critical of the authorities' handling of the crisis and the damaging delay in refloating the vessel. They also criticise environmental pressure groups for exploiting the incident for their own publicity.

ChildLine calls fall

Calls to ChildLine's special line for children in care have fallen by about 80 per cent in the past three years. The line is for complaints of sexual abuse by foster parents, care workers or others in residential care. Of 1,614 children in local authority care who called in 1995-96, 35 said they had been sexually abused by carers, 20 out of 1,130 in residential homes and 15 out of 484 in foster care. Some called because they were physically assaulted or bullied while others said they felt unloved and unwanted.

Hunter in lions' den

A Royal Navy frigate that was designed to hunt Russian submarines visits Russia's huge submarine base at Murmansk today. The invitation to *HMS Iron Duke* to the headquarters of the Northern Fleet is the latest barrier to be removed between the Russian military and the West. The Type 23 frigate, the Navy's most advanced anti-submarine ship, will be open to visits from Russian submariners for five days and will later take part in an exercise with units from the Northern Fleet.

Hull and high water

Scientists from Hull University have been awarded £26,000 by the Natural Environment Research Council to carry out DNA tests on South Atlantic squid from waters around the Falkland Islands, to discover whether overfishing has affected their genetic variability. This would reduce their ability to adapt to environmental changes. Squids are a food source for birds and whales, and licensed squid-fishing by foreign nations is a vital part of the Falklands economy.

Police check car tints

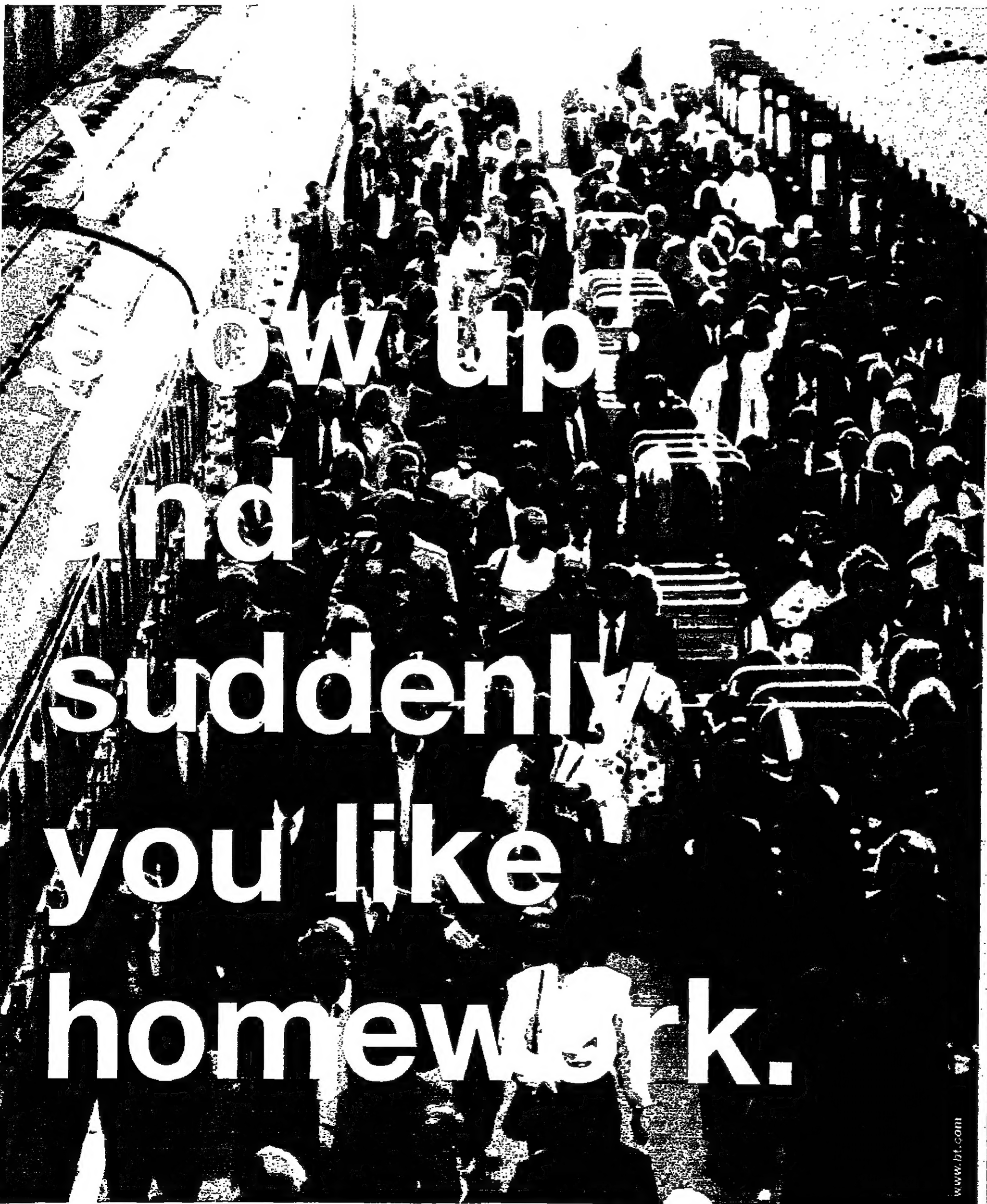
Tinted windows for cars are to be tested to check whether they are clear enough to allow safe driving. Special equipment has been developed by police concerned by the safety implications of tinted glass and a trend among criminals to use darkened glass to hide their identities. South Yorkshire Police, which helped to design the TintMan meter, will start checks from Monday. Drivers will be told to remove the tint immediately or face a £20 fixed penalty or a summons.

Aspirin best for strokes

Aspirin is the best available treatment for strokes, a trial involving 40,000 patients, half of them in China, has found. Researchers compared it with heparin, a fast-acting anti-coagulant which can cause nose bleeds and bruising. Dr Peter Sanderson, of the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, concludes in *The Lancet* that use of aspirin should be considered for patients suffering from a stroke caused by a blood clot. Long-term low dosage after an attack improved a patient's chances of avoiding another.

Fog delays Pole pick-up

The British team of women polar trekkers was stranded at the North Pole after dense fog prevented aircraft from reaching them. Two aircraft had been due to pick up the four women after they had completed the final leg of the 1,000-kilometre marathon early on Tuesday. They were said to be in good spirits and had enough supplies for four days. It was hoped that the weather would clear sufficiently for them to be picked up within hours.



Turn right out of the bedroom, down the landing, past the bathroom, left into the spare room.

Isn't that a more attractive commute into work?

Research shows that working at home can be 40% more productive than working at the office.

Of course, it's not something most of us can do every day, but BT are trying to help make it something all of us can do some days.

A simple BT fax costs less than £200 and it is enough to make basic home working possible.

BT can also supply the lines and software for a more comprehensive connection, linking your home PC to the office network.

Once you're on line, the Internet places a phenomenal amount of information at your fingertips for the price of a phone call.

Homeworking is here now, it's affordable and BT can supply everything you need to be part of it.

For a guide to what communications technology can do for you Freefone 0800 800 800.

Why not change the way we work?

PREPARE TO BE SHOCKED.

A minute after this photo was taken, the dog was beaten, soaked with water and electrocuted.

Her cries? To be born in Asia where dealing with the world's biggest stray dog problem is a cruel battle.

Sometimes, the power supply is not strong enough to kill dogs like this. So some are buried alive.

The World Society for the Protection of Animals is working with local authorities and animal welfare groups to convince them to neuter not kill. We're helping by supporting shelters and supplying vital veterinary equipment.

£20 is all it takes to humanely neuter and care for one dog. You can help us save dogs like this and other innocent animals. Please send what you can now. Thank you.

Please return this coupon with your gift to the address below today.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

How to my donation of £ _____

(Please make cheques payable to WSPA or complete the credit card details below)

Card No. _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

CALL 0990 214 214 NOW TO MAKE AN INSTANT DONATION

Lottery chief delays showdown over pay rises

Chris Smith says that Camelot must clean up its act or risk losing its contract. Carol Midgley and Stephen Farrell report on government anger over directors' bonuses

SIR GEORGE RUSSELL, chairman of the National Lottery operator Camelot, was forced yesterday to delay a showdown meeting with the Government over huge executive pay rises because he is overseas working for another company.

Sir George, who was caught off guard by the unexpected leaking of the figures to a trade magazine, will now meet the National Lottery Secretary, Chris Smith, on Monday after being summoned for urgent talks.

He will fly back today from America, where he was said to be on business unrelated to Camelot. His other roles include the chairmanship of venture capital company 3i and a non-executive directorship of Northern Rock. He retired as chairman of the building materials group Marley earlier this month.

At Monday's meeting Sir George will be asked to explain why directors received rises of up to 90 per cent when lottery ticket sales have slumped, and contributions to lottery good causes have dropped by £143 million.

Camelot risks having its

licence terminated early after Mr Smith yesterday accused its directors of profiteering. He said he was "very angry" about the massive pay increases awarded to directors and was considering the feasibility of buying out Camelot's contract, which is due to expire in 2001.

Mr Smith expressed frustration that, under the terms of their contract, the directors were legally entitled to reap such rewards. But he added that to buy out Camelot early would be hugely expensive to the taxpayer and therefore unlikely. Legally the company would have to be compensated for the millions of pounds it had invested in machinery and promotions which would incur huge costs.

But such is the Government's anger at the "fat cat" rises that Mr Smith said he would "need to consider that as a possible option". He said his first weapon in persuading Camelot to lower its directors' pay rises would be to tell them that they would lose public confidence in the lottery. "I will say to them, 'Look, this is the people's lottery, if the people don't have confidence in it, they're not going to play it and give you these profits.' They don't seem to know this, because they aren't acting as if they do."

His second weapon would be to warn Camelot that it might not be considered for the lottery contract when it was renewed. "I will say to them, 'If you want any hope whatsoever of competing in the future, then you have got to clean up your act now.'"

Mr Smith said Camelot had been within its rights to make the increases, although the Government would be bringing forward legislation later this year to turn the lottery into a non-profitmaking organisation. "Unfortunately they



Under fire: Tim Holley, left, with consultant Don Stamford and Camelot operations director David Clark, right

are operating under a contract," he told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "They are legally entitled to do this. This is part of the mess we have inherited. It is precisely why we want to go for a not-for-profit lottery in the near future, and are bringing forward legislation to do so."

The Prime Minister has also expressed his outrage over the increases. Total payments to ten Camelot executives increased from £1.67 million to £2.33 million. One, David Rigg, the communications director, saw his package almost double from £175,000 to £333,000. Mr Rigg was unavailable for comment yesterday as he was on a half-term holiday with his wife and children.

The Government is likely to be angered further by figures showing Camelot's profits down from £51.1 million to £46.5 million in the year ending March. Total sales slipped

to £4.7 billion from £5.2 billion and the amount raised for good causes dropped to £1.27 billion from £1.41 billion. But, despite the disappointing figures, Camelot said it would apply for a third National Lottery television show to feature scratchcards as a way of boosting scratchcard sales, which have fallen recently. It also said it had been expecting the decline in sales, which were in line with the experience of state-run lotteries in other countries.

Camelot's chief executive,

Tim Holley, who had a 53 per cent rise, taking his total salary package to £590,000, said that the lottery was recognised "on the world stage as a great success" and that the directors' remuneration "reflected results".

He said: "The reason that remuneration packages grew was because of payment from a long-term bonus scheme that has been put in place from before the start of the National Lottery. This is the first time there has been a payment from that, and if you

look at the salaries of directors, such as mine, they went up by 7 per cent."

The BBC Radio 1 breakfast show presenter Mark Radcliffe has pulled out of the National Lottery Live television show, due for broadcast this Saturday, in protest at the pay rises. He and fellow host, Marc Riley, were due to have appeared on the show but said they were so angry that their appearance would have been hypocritical.

Leading article, page 21

THE OPTIONS

End Camelot's licence before it expires in September 2001

For: This would appear decisive and send a signal that the Government was determined to take a hard line with industry "fat cats". It would also be popular with critics of the original decision to award the licence to a commercial company instead of to a non-profitmaking organisation.

Against: Compensation would have to be paid to Camelot, which has invested millions of pounds in machinery and promotion. The huge costs would have to be met by the Department of National Heritage, and ultimately the taxpayer.

Ronnie Fox, an employment law specialist and senior partner with Fox Williams, said: "Forcing Camelot out without their consent would raise serious constitutional issues over the principle that you cannot confiscate people's property and rights unless they are in breach of their licence, which they are not. I cannot see the Government going down this road."

Impose a windfall tax

For: A populist option which would appease critics who claim Camelot was granted a licence to print money. This option would raise more revenue for the Treasury and avoid the costs of revoking Camelot's licence.

Against: It would appear arbitrary and provide ammunition to privatisation critics such as BT and British Gas. "The difference between this and taxing the former nationalised industries is that, when they [the utilities] were sold off, Labour warned it would levy a windfall tax and shareholders knew this when they were making the decision to invest or not. This is an entirely different situation."

Set up a rival non-profit lottery

For: This would eliminate Camelot's monopoly and allow punters to choose where to spend their money.

Against: Charities would not necessarily benefit from confusion among the public and the dilution of publicity away from one high-profile draw. Labour has said it wants one lottery. A Department of National Heritage spokeswoman said yesterday that this was not under active consideration.



Sir George: due to face Chris Smith on Monday

Slim pickings for man who runs the Fat One

BY MARK HENDERSON

AMONG the lottery fat cats, Luis Pérezguas is a scrawny kiten. While Tim Holley, the Camelot chief executive, scoops a £540,000 salary package, the man who runs the world's richest lottery, responsible for a £38 billion annual taking, earns a salary of £30,000.

In a good year, Señor Pérezguas can boost his salary by an undisclosed profit-related bonus estimated at £6,000. Señor Pérezguas is paid no differently from other civil servants of director-general grade in the Spanish Finance Ministry. As a full-time civil servant he has none of the extra-curricular business commitments that prevented Sir George Russell, the Camelot chairman, attending crisis talks with the National Lottery Secretary yesterday.

The Spanish national lottery alone takes £23 billion a year, more than four times Camelot's annual take of £4.7 billion, and pays out daily million-pound jackpots. At

Christmas Señor Pérezguas is responsible for paying out the world's richest single lottery prize, known as El Gordo (The Fat One). Last year the El Gordo draw was worth more than £154 million.

Señor Pérezguas's department's annual take exceeds £38 billion because he also runs two smaller lotteries and the national football pools. Other European lottery chiefs earn peanuts compared with Mr Holley. In Ireland, Ray Bates, the Director of the National Lottery, earns just over £80,000 a year and his four deputies earn less than £50,000. All are civil servants in a state-run lottery and are paid according to a grading system. Three of Mr Holley's senior boardroom colleagues take-home pay packets worth more than £300,000.

Bertrand de Gallie, the French national lottery director, is also a civil servant and his salary is not released with lottery accounts. Civil servants

of an equivalent grade are paid approximately £110,000. The French lottery made a profit of nearly £40 million last year.

Only in the United States are Camelot's salaries matched or exceeded by lottery chiefs. Richard Haddrell, president of Video Lottery Technologies, a Montana company that runs nine American state lotteries including the second largest, in Florida, took home a salary package worth more than £600,000 last year, putting him slightly ahead of Mr Holley.

Wealthier still is Guy Snowden, owner of GTEch, which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot. He earns over £2 million a year in salary and benefits and has shares in the company valued at more than £30 million.

GTEch either runs or has a stake in 70 per cent of the world's lotteries, including the Texas state lottery, the largest in America, and tiny lotteries in Iceland and Estonia.

NOTICE TO EXISTING BARCLAYS MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS

Variable mortgage rates for existing borrowers will change as follows:

Barclays Mortgage Rate (Currently administered mortgages) Interest charged monthly	Barclays Home Mortgage Rate (Research based mortgages only) Interest charged quarterly
Old rate	
7.25%	7.25%
New rate	
7.60% Effective from 1st June 1997	7.60% Effective from 2nd June 1997

Call 0800 000 929 between 8.00am and 8.00pm, Monday to Friday, or between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Saturdays.



Barclays Bank PLC, Registered in England, Reg. No. 1026161, Reg. Office 54 Lombard Street, London EC3M 3JF. Barclays Bank PLC is a member of the Building Societies Group (UK) Insurance only.

Dixons DEAL 97

BRITAIN'S BEST RANGE OF DIGITAL CAMERAS

PLUS FREE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER BUYER'S GUIDE - PICK UP YOUR COPY IN-STORE



SANYO VPGC200
DIGITAL CAMERA
• 640 x 480 pixels. • Stores up to 120 images. • Connects directly into TV or monitor. • Flash. • Macro facility. • 4Mb memory.

£549.99 Dixons Deal 97



FUJI DS-7
DIGITAL CAMERA
• 640 x 480 pixels. • Stores up to 50 images. • Includes 2Mb Smartmedia card. • 18" live imaging LCD monitor. • Widescreen. • Widescreen. • Widescreen.

£499.99 Dixons Deal 97



SONY DSC-F1
DIGITAL CAMERA
• 640 x 480 pixels. • Stores up to 100 images. • 4Mb internal memory. • Includes PC Macintosh image removal software. • Flashing lens.

£699.99 Dixons Deal 97



Bigger and Better than Ever!

PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

One visit, and you'll find out why.

- ✓ **RANGE - BRITAIN'S BIGGEST**
No one stocks more cameras.
- ✓ **LATEST TECHNOLOGY**
It's new, we've got it. Come in and see it now.
- ✓ **ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST**
We'll help you find the digital camera that's right for you.
- ✓ **QUALITY GUARANTEED**
All the products are backed by Mastercare, Britain's biggest service and repair network.

OLYMPUS C400L

DIGITAL CAMERA
• 640 x 480 pixels. • 2Mb memory. • Stores up to 80 images. • High quality Olympus F2.8 lens. • LARGER STORES. • Widescreen. • Widescreen. • Widescreen.

£499.99 Dixons Deal 97

CASIO QV-10AT

DIGITAL CAMERA
• 320 x 240 pixels. • Stores up to 96 images. • 18" LCD screen. • View up to 9 images at a time. • Widescreen. • Widescreen. • Widescreen.

£299.99 Dixons Deal 97

OLYMPUS C800L

DIGITAL CAMERA
• 1024 x 480 pixels. • Stores up to 120 images. • 4Mb internal memory. • High quality Olympus F2.8 lens. • LARGER STORES. • Widescreen. • Widescreen. • Widescreen.

£949.99 Dixons Deal 97

New Technology

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY - THE REVOLUTION HAS ARRIVED

It had to happen... cameras have gone digital! At Dixons we were converted to a flash!

These cameras store images digitally, so there's no more film or developing. You can see them instantly on the built-in LCD screen. Edit and store them on your PC. Put them into letters and documents - even fax or e-mail them!

And of course you can have prints as well, just like the old days.

The picture quality is decided by the number of pixels: the greater number of pixels you have, the finer the image quality. Larger memory sizes and image enhancing software also improve your image capturing and storage - up to as many as 32 shots.

See it first at Dixons

ORDER DIRECT ON 0500 50 40 30

Delivery charges from £3.25

PART OF DSG RETAIL LIMITED

Account interest free if repaid in full before the 9th monthly payment. Terms & Conditions: Cash price £549.99, 20% deposit of £109.99, Loan amount £279.99.

Subject to status. Minimum deposit 10% on loans over £1,000. Written credit: quotations available on request from: Dixons, 100, High Street, London E1C 1AA. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland)

Dixons
There's a Great Deal going on

Interest FREE OPTION. Account interest free if repaid in full before the 9th monthly payment. Terms & Conditions: Cash price £549.99, 20% deposit of £109.99, Loan amount £279.99. Subject to status. Minimum deposit 10% on loans over £1,000. Written credit: quotations available on request from: Dixons, 100, High Street, London E1C 1AA. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland)

مكتبة امنه الاصل

Victim's brother will come under intense diplomatic pressure to reconsider rejection of clemency

Call for nurses' deaths puts Saudis in dilemma

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE families of two British nurses being tried for the murder of a colleague in Saudi Arabia fly to the Middle East today. They will visit Deborah Parry and Lucy McLauchlan in the knowledge that the victim's brother has told Saudi officials they should be executed if convicted.

Frank Gilford, whose sister Yvonne was stabbed and suffocated at the Dhahran hospital where the three women worked in December, said: "Those who do the crime must do the time." He added: "Yvonne was shown no mercy. It's difficult for us to show mercy to Yvonne's killers."

His refusal to consider clemency places the Saudis in a difficult situation: should they ignore the ruling of the court, if the women are found guilty, and insist on clemency; or should they authorise beheadings, in keeping with their own Islamic code, and risk uproot overseas?

Mr Gilford has three weeks in which to consider a plea for clemency on behalf of Ms Parry, 38, and Ms McLauchlan, 31. He has refused the offer of a paid flight to Saudi Arabia to meet the two women, saying there is new evidence which has yet to go before the court that convinced him of their guilt.

The Riyadh Government is acutely aware of the political hazards involved in the case. So far it has demonstrated a sure-footed response. By sticking to the Islamic principle of allowing the closest male relative to decide whether or not to grant clemency, it has thrown the ball into the Western court. If Mr Gilford sticks to his intransigent line, the Saudis could say that the West upholds the punishment decreed by Saudi law; if he agrees the sentence should be commuted, it could imprison the two women and then bundle them

out of the country as swiftly as possible to rid it of the embarrassment.

Saudi Arabia would clearly prefer that the court did not pass a death sentence. As far as Saudis are concerned, no Muslims are involved in the case, so sensitivities are correspondingly fewer. The Government could argue, therefore, that sentence should be appropriate for what is normal in the West.

Nevertheless, the case has already attracted so much adverse publicity that it has become a matter of face. If the Saudi Government makes a clear exception for foreigners, it could be strongly criticised by religious zealots for undermining Islamic law, and by other Asian countries such as Thailand and the Philippines, whose non-Muslim nationals have frequently been executed for such crimes as drug-smuggling and murder.

British press allegations that the Islamic justice system is unfair are also bound to inflame sensitivities. The Saudis have taken unusual steps to allow defence lawyers access to court deliberations and to introduce a degree of legal transparency not common in normal cases.

However, suggestions that confessions were extracted from the nurses under duress have angered the authorities. Ghazi al-Ghosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador, dismissed all such press allegations and insisted that the only confession that would be recognised was one freely given to the court.

Although the two women have yet to be judged, negotiations are going on as though a guilty verdict had already been reached. The nurses themselves are said to be willing to raise "blood money" should this be necessary; their lawyers are giving the case



Yvonne Gilford was stabbed and suffocated

great publicity to put pressure on the Islamic court.

A quick resolution is unlikely: the case has been adjourned for three weeks, and if the women are eventually found guilty there is a lengthy appeal process to a higher court. The final say is likely to be political, as the Saudi

Interior Ministry, and in this case probably the royal family, have the last word.

A criminal law expert in Riyadh said the court would first study the confessions, "and, if that is not deemed sufficient, then evidence will be submitted". The nurses' lawyers emphasise that there has as yet been "no legal qualification of the charges". If the women face charges of first-degree murder the *qisas*, or capital punishment, would apply. But if the charges are second-degree murder, without intent to kill, the nurses would face a maximum sentence of five years as well as "money for the family".

Diplomats are already suggesting that Mr Gilford may be holding out for a commitment to a lengthy sentence or for a substantial cash payment from the families of the accused, in the next three weeks he will come under intense diplomatic pressure to reconsider his rejection of the clemency plea.



Frank Gilford and his wife, Laurel, at their home in South Australia. "It's difficult for us to show mercy"



McLauchlan, left, and Parry, whose families fly to Saudi Arabia today to visit the nurses in jail

Fisherman says lover had Aids before they met

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

THE Greek Cypriot fisherman accused by a British woman of infecting her with HIV claims that she may have had Aids before they slept together. He said there was no other explanation why Janette Pink, 45, had demanded unprotected sex when she knew he was HIV-positive.

Favlos Georgiou made the allegation in a four-page statement that was read to a court in Cyprus yesterday. He dismissed claims by Mrs Pink, who has Aids, that he had kept his condition secret, but made no attempt to deny that he knew he was HIV-positive well before they had any sexual contact.

Mr Georgiou appeared more relaxed without Mrs Pink's presence in court. She returned to England after giving evidence last week.

Mr Georgiou, 40, said he did not know whether he had given her the virus, but added: "The question arises that, if a woman knows her sexual partner is an Aids carrier and she wasn't, why did she insist on making love without precautions?" The possibility that Mrs Pink had Aids before arriving in Cyprus was never raised by the defence during its two-day cross-examination.

Tassos Economou, for Mr Georgiou, argued earlier that the signed statement was inadmissible because police had told the fisherman they wanted it only to clear up the case. The senior detective who took the statement on January 14 said Mr Georgiou was read his rights and had been keen to talk. Inspector Andreas Naoum said it was a "friendly atmosphere" and Mr Georgiou had asked him out to

dinner after the interview. Judge Antonis Liatos ordered that the statement be admitted as evidence.

Mrs Pink, from Basildon, Essex, had said her former lover consistently lied to her about his condition during their three-year affair. His English-born wife, Martha, died of an Aids-related illness in August 1994. Mrs Pink said Mr Georgiou told her she had died of leukaemia.

Mr Georgiou said they had a long friendship before their relationship became physical. He admitted to police that he had not told Mrs Pink at the time that he had tested HIV-positive in June 1992. He said she discovered the truth from his mother-in-law and eldest daughter when his wife died, several months after they had begun seeing each other. "Until that time we had no sexual contact," he said.

Mr Georgiou tested HIV-positive in June 1992 after his wife had told him she had the virus. He said he and Mrs Pink continued to have sex without precautions and, at the beginning of 1996, she became pregnant. He said she had tested positive at a clinic before she became pregnant.

Doctors advised her to have a termination and she had an abortion in Nicosia. Dr Athenoula Neou told the court that Mrs Pink visited her in March 1994 requesting a test for Aids and venereal disease. Both were negative. Mrs Pink returned six months later and the test was positive.

Mr Georgiou is charged with knowingly committing an act that could transmit a life-threatening disease. The case continues on Wednesday.

Must a painter use a brush?

To move forward you need to take a different view. Which is why the new Audi A

Debacle puts euro fudge on menu

Brussels insists on launch deadline

FROM CHARLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS

COMMENT

EUROPE'S monetary guardians yesterday sought to calm the storm over the future single currency while politicians and experts agreed that the turmoil in France and Germany presaged a euro that could now only be launched through political compromise.

In a matter of days, an electoral revolt in France and a spectacular row in Germany have battered the prospects of a currency which had been cruising towards creation, carried by the will of the Franco-German establishment and the faith of the financial markets.

Gone now is the confidence that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will manage to steer the scheme through the turbulence of popular resistance to ensure the birth of a strong successor to the mark. Even before Wednesday's condemnation by Hans

Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, Bonn's sudden desire to use its gold reserves for artful accounting, a decision that could only have come from the Chancellor, had undermined his image at home as the guarantor of fiscal rectitude. The clash has bestowed breathing room for the governments of southern Europe in their struggle to meet the letter of the Maastricht treaty.

Clear alternatives have emerged: either the euro will be broad and probably soft, encompassing the weaker economies of Italy and the Mediterranean states, or it will be delayed from its planned launch on January 1, 1999.

The notion of delay, though freely and often raised in Britain, has long been taboo in Brussels, Paris or Bonn. In recent months it has only been



Gold piled up at the vaults of Bundesbank is at the centre of the revaluation row

invoked in whispers by ministers from Italy and The Netherlands who worried that the rush to fulfil the tough Maastricht criteria risked provoking a dangerous backlash. Yesterday Yves-Thibault de

Silguy, the European Union Commissioner in charge of the project, was standing by the orthodox line. "The euro will be born on January 1, 1999. The process is now irreversible," he said. "There is no

question of cooking the books or fudging the figures."

The betting in Brussels and among many analysts around Europe holds that political and economic arguments will prevail against allowing slippage in the sacred deadline of the Maastricht treaty. Economic and monetary union (EMU) is still cherished in France and Germany, its progenitors, as the consummation of the political union designed at Maastricht.

Any delay will amount to abandonment, they argue, pointing to the two-decade lapse since the last monetary scheme in the early 1970s. The gates would open to a financial upheaval that could send the mark soaring, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the struggling German economy. Jacques Delors, the senior French Socialist and former President of

the Commission, yesterday stated the case: "Respect for the EMU timetable is an absolute political imperative."

Whoever wins Sunday's second round of the French election, the new government will have a mandate to ease up on the austerity drive pursued by the Socialist administration of the late President Mitterrand and Jacques Chirac, his Gaullist successor. Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader who could become Prime Minister, yesterday reaffirmed his "absolute commitment" to the euro, but also renewed his pledge to ensure that the strict monetary criteria be subordinated to political imperatives such as the need to fight unemployment.

The Gaullist alliance, hoping to retain power, has shifted far in the same direction. Philippe Séguin, the likely Gaullist Premier and former anti-Maastricht campaigner, said the Maastricht demand for a budget deficit of no more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product "is nothing but masochism".

Both M Jospin and M Séguin are insisting that monetary union must include the maximum number of countries, taking in the Italians, Spanish and Portuguese. The only countries likely to stay outside this euro zone would be Greece, whose economy is too weak, and Britain, Denmark and Sweden, which are expected to opt out.

The fate of EMU hangs now more than ever on German politics. Herr Kohl has effectively gambled that he can face down the Bundesbank, as he did over German unification, and convince his parliament and public to accept a softer version of the entrance test.

Leading article, page 21
Business News, page 25
Economic view, page 29

Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, who accused Herr Kohl of creative accounting



Maria Montell, the pop singer who is reported to be travelling in Vietnam with Prince Frederik

Prince of Denmark disappears to be or not to be alone

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

COURT sources here yesterday dismissed reports that Prince Frederik, the heir to the Danish throne, had vanished during a visit to Thailand or gone into hiding.

While the Thai press speculated that tragedy may have overtaken the Crown Prince, or that he had been caught up in a comedy of errors, Danish tabloids were following up theories of their own.

"Frederik and Maria in Vietnam" declared the leading Danish tabloid BT yesterday on its front page. "Love" proclaimed its rival, Ekstra Bladet. But the Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen would confirm only that the 29-year-old Prince was in Vietnam for a few days after heading a Danish trade mission to Thailand. The palace declined to say whether the Prince was travelling alone or not.

The popular press here insists that the bachelor Prince, who is reputed to have an eye for the ladies and a passion for fast cars, is travelling with Maria Montell, 28, a pop singer with whom he has been romantically linked.

In Thailand, the Bangkok Post reported that the Prince was diving off Phuket, a popular beach resort 428 miles south of Bangkok.

However, the Prince has not been seen publicly in Thailand since security police delivered him to the Danish Embassy in Bangkok last Thursday after an audience with Thailand's King Bhumibol.

The Danish popular press and paparazzi tend to treat the Royal Family with respect. But the focus on Prince Frederik has intensified since his brother, Prince Joachim, 27, married the Alexandra Manley, a Hong Kong British citizen, in 1995.

Last Thursday was the final day of the official visit and the Bangkok Post reported that the Prince's entourage was seen boarding a plane at Bangkok without him. Journalists approached the Danish Embassy after the Prince failed to arrive in Copenhagen with his group.

Battling for Cheaper Car Insurance?

Is your premium over £250? You could cut your costs by calling Hastings Direct.

Bigger cars and comprehensive cover: a speciality!

Call FREE on 0800 00 1066 and quote reference T1042

Hastings DIRECT since 1984



Prince Frederik failed to return to Denmark

ush? unlike any saloon car in its class. Available May 30th.

Audi Vorsprung durch Technik



Chirac blesses marriage of convenience

Centre-Right pins fading hopes on political odd couple

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

IN THE fraught closing days of France's parliamentary election, President Chirac has given his implicit blessing to a new and unlikely alliance between Philippe Séguin, a Eurosceptic, and Alain Madelin, a free marketer, that may represent the Centre-Right's last remaining hope of retaining its ruling majority.

The President telephoned both M Séguin, the Gaullist parliamentary Speaker, and M Madelin, a former Finance Minister, before the two men held a joint campaign rally in Chambéry.

The calls were officially described as a "discussion of campaign tactics", but M Chirac's carefully timed move has been widely interpreted as a hint that M Séguin is in line for the premiership if the Centre-Right scrapes together a renewed majority in the decisive second round of voting on Sunday.

After the resignation of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, M Séguin has emerged as the front-runner for his office. M Chirac cannot openly say who he favours to replace M Juppé, but he may be hoping that by giving the impression of support for the popular M Séguin at this late stage he can avert a left-wing victory, following the Centre-Right's dismal showing in the first round.

The President is surely calculating that M Séguin's anti-Maastricht credentials, combined with his recent conversion to European monetary union "with conditions" — a position remarkably similar to that of the Socialists — may just be enough to entice sufficient voters back to the Centre-Right.

The combination of M Séguin and M Madelin is being described by their supporters as a "dream team", but with private opinion polls still

FRENCH ELECTIONS

showing the Left clearly ahead the belief that they can turn the tide may itself be no more than a dream.

"Chirac's last card," *Libération* newspaper declared on its front page yesterday. "Can Séguin still save the Right?"

If he became Prime Minister, M Séguin would be expected to reward M Madelin with his former job at the Finance Ministry or another senior ministerial post.

On Wednesday night the two politicians insisted that they see eye-to-eye on fundamental issues, but the Séguin-Madelin tandem is a peculiar vehicle and the wide disparity between their opinions may serve only to confuse and alienate voters further.

M Madelin is an outspoken free marketer who has campaigned ardently for deregulation and was fired by M Juppé for suggesting that civil service perks should be cut. The socially minded M Séguin, by contrast, represents the Gaullist left wing as a vigorous proponent of job creation and help for the poor. Until recently he was a staunch opponent of the Maastricht treaty, which M Madelin supports.

M Séguin insisted that his ideas were "fully complementary" with those of M Madelin, but others have dismissed their linkage as a cynical alliance of convenience.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National



Philippe Séguin, left, the parliamentary Speaker, and Alain Madelin being greeted by supporters in Chambéry

Front, whose rhetoric is becoming increasingly bizarre as the campaign heads to a climax, came up with a characteristically earthy attack on the Séguin-Madelin ticket.

"This is a crocodile, an African animal with a lion's head at one end and crocodile's head at the other," M Le Pen said. "This is a very wild animal because it cannot go to the toilet."

Many figures within the Centre-Right were also openly sceptical of the new-found

affinity between M Séguin and M Madelin. "You can't harness a little bit of liberal skylark to a great chunk of socialist horse; that doesn't work," observed François Léotard, head of the UDF group of centre-right parties and another possible candidate for the premiership.

Lionel Jospin, the leader of the Socialist Party and the man most likely to be France's next Prime Minister, was scathing.

"You can't make a synthesis

out of an impossible coupling," he said. "The French people have not forgotten that M Madelin was removed from government within three months. They know that M Séguin is his opposite."

M Juppé, who heartily dislikes both M Séguin and M Madelin, was one of the few to look positively on the duo, describing them as "a good ticket because they are united on the essentials".

While the Centre-Right was already displaying the frac-

tious signs of a coalition that may shortly be in opposition, with just three days to go before the voters' final verdict M Jospin was sounding increasingly like Tony Blair as he repeatedly issued warnings against complacency, insisted the Left was "ready to govern", and took every opportunity to invoke the British Prime Minister.

Before his own final campaign rally, M Jospin announced he was feeling "cool, as Tony Blair would say".

Turkish leader steps down to ward off generals

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

TURKEY'S first Islamic government, under mounting pressure from military leaders, yesterday collapsed amid chaos and recriminations.

Necmettin Erbakan, the Prime Minister, agreed to step down from office in a move that will bring relief to Turkey's nervous Western allies and could ward off the growing threat of military intervention.

Mr Erbakan made his decision partly in an attempt to outmanoeuvre the military, which accuses him of steering the country towards radical Islam.

Under a formula announced yesterday, the Government will be handed over to "Faazil Çiller", the former Prime Minister and coalition ally, who will lead the country to early elections.

Mr Erbakan must now persuade parliament to pass an early election law. This would clear the way in a month's time for him to hand over the premiership to his junior partner, Mrs Çiller, as required by their coalition agreement.

The chance of regaining the Prime Ministership, office even briefly would give Mrs Çiller the chance to restore an authority over her True Path Party, badly damaged by a recent spate of high-level resignations.

The scheme to swap the prime ministership could still founder. Once Mr Erbakan bowed out, President Demirel would have to select Mrs Çiller for the job. Mr Demirel may well insist on selecting his prerogative of choosing Mesut Yılmaz, leader of the opposition, whose Motherland Party has more support than the True Path.

It is the prospect of Mrs Çiller's party collapsing altogether which will have changed Mr Erbakan's mind not to soldier on as he once promised until 2003 but to go for a poll as early as next October. Mr Erbakan's under-

try's chief prosecutor who has taken an action to shut down his Welfare Party altogether for transgressing the secular guidelines of the Turkish constitution and political parties law. A verdict in that trial is expected by the new year.

Mr Erbakan rallied his Welfare party at an Istanbul stadium yesterday in a ceremony held to commemorate the historic taking of the city from the Byzantines 544 years ago.

Earlier in the year Mr Erbakan had pledged to complete that conquest by commissioning a new mosque in the middle of Istanbul's entertainment district. This and a series of similar pronouncements created a sense of panic among Turkey's secular establishment.

Last February, the Turkish military issued the Government with a series of demands, including the closure of religious secondary schools, regarded as a breeding ground for hard-line Islamic attitudes. Only last Monday, senior commanders successfully demanded that Mr Erbakan approve the cashiering of scores of officers suspected of anti-secular sympathies.



Public sector employees get more with Zurich Municipal

Does your motor insurance include FREE breakdown cover?

Ours does.

Zurich Municipal offers a special fully comprehensive motor insurance which includes free breakdown cover as standard. Our insurance includes:

- FREE roadside assistance from Green Flag Ltd. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, if your car breaks down over one mile from your home.
- Recovery for you, your car and up to five passengers to the nearest garage: if the fault cannot be fixed at the roadside.
- Option to upgrade at substantially reduced prices.
- Plus 15% off our comprehensive motor insurance premium for public sector employees.

Don't be satisfied with anything else. Call free on

0800 444 555

Open: 8am-8pm Mon to Fri, 9am-1pm Sat.
Please quote the reference TIM3005

ZURICH MUNICIPAL

Cover and premiums are subject to individual assessment
NB: This service is not available in Northern Ireland, Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man.
Zurich Municipal is a trading name of Zurich Insurance Company, A limited company incorporated in Switzerland. UK Head Office: Zurich House, Stanhope Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 1DU.

NEWS

Coup army takes over gem mines

Freetown: Sierra Leonean soldiers have seized foreign-owned diamond mines in the eastern town of Koidu after Sunday's army coup, police and community leaders in the town said yesterday.

Heavily armed soldiers who drove from Freetown in commandeered vehicles opened fire to scare away owners of mines and other businesses. British, Canadian and Belgian mine operators are among hundreds of foreigners waiting in Freetown for evacuation flights.

Meanwhile, 240 Lebanese nationals evacuated from Sierra Leone arrived in Beirut yesterday. One woman said every Lebanese family was forced to pay Sierra Leone's armed forces \$2,000. (Reuters)

Mugabe, 73, has another child

Harare: President Mugabe has become a father again at 73 (Jan Raath writes). His wife Grace, 31, gave birth to the couple's third child at a private clinic, an official said. The boy, their second, is to be christened today. Mr Mugabe "was growing ever younger" since his marriage last year, said President Mandela of South Africa on a visit here last week.

Somali ceasefire

Cairo: Somalia's two most powerful faction leaders, Hussein Mohamed Aidid and Ali Mahdi Mohamed, agreed to a ceasefire and called on other factions to join their peace efforts. (Reuters)

Kabila gives pledge of 1999 elections as he is sworn in

FROM REUTERS IN KINSHASA

PRESIDENT KABILA took office as head of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday, sealing his victory over Mobutu Sese Seko, the former Zairean dictator. His first deed as President was to promise elections in April 1999.

Mr Kabila, whose forces marched into the capital on May 17 after a seven-month civil war, took the oath of office in front of the head of the Supreme Court and tens of thousands of people in Kinshasa's sports stadium.

In an address to the nation, punctuated with criticism of Western governments which supported Mr Mobutu and have put pressure on Mr Kabila to embrace democracy, the new leader announced a timetable for democratic change in the former Zaire.



Kabila: poll timetable "will be respected"

"We are not in a hurry. This crumbling and shattered state must be organised so that the Congolese people can hold elections," he said, setting April 1999 as the date for both presidential and parliamentary elections.

"Be assured that the timetable will be respected," he said, adding that no foreign interference would change the timetable. As a first step, he said a constituent council would be set up to draft a new constitution that would be put to an elected constituent assembly and to the people in a referendum in December 1998.

The Presidents of Uganda, Rwanda, Angola, Burundi and Zambia attended the ceremony, at which many in the crowd caught their first glimpse of the man who now controls their destiny. Mr Kabila, 57, has kept out of the public eye since arriving in the city on May 20.

Organisers told hundreds of students calling for democracy and payment of grants that any disruption of the ceremony would provoke a "firm" response and that they would bear responsibility for the consequences.

One official, speaking over the public address system, also blamed members of Mr Mobutu's defeated army for the disruption and said that some had been apprehended in the crowd.

As Mr Kabila arrived, there was a rumble of discontent in some sections of the crowd, who asked the whereabouts of Etienne Tshisekedi, the veteran opposition leader.

The Open University

MA in Humanities

The Open University's MA in Humanities programme enables you to construct the MA that suits your requirements. With a choice of examined modules from Literature, History and Popular Culture.

You can build your own MA programme and base your degree on courses work, with a short dissertation, or devote more time to research. Even if you do not complete the full programme you may qualify for a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma in Humanities.

Through OU supported open learning

Our proven method of teaching allows you to study wherever you live and in your own time. Specially designed written texts are backed up by personal tutorial support and the opportunity to work with other students.

Applications are invited from students holding honours degrees for commencement of studies in February 1998 - so fill in the coupon now for your free MA in Humanities prospectus.

Send for your free prospectus now

Send to The Open University, Course Reservations & Sales Centre, PO Box 724, Milton Keynes MK7 6ZS

☐ Please send me a copy of the MA in Humanities prospectus

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

University education and training open to all adults

THEY'LL GET YOU UP-TIGHT ON HOLIDAY.

PICO
38-60mm Zoom.
Fully automatic. High quality aspherical Zoom lens. Self timer. Versatile automatic flash with red eye reduction.
£299.99

T90W
28-70mm Zoom.
Ultra wide-angle telephoto Zoom lens. Smooth 'pettle' shaped design. Soft flash for natural looking portraits. Also available in black.
£159.99

115EX
38-115mm Zoom.
Soft flash for natural portraits and close-ups. Sleek 'capsule' design. Fully retractable Zoom lens and flash. Aluminium casing. Also available in black.
£199.99

140EX
38-140mm Zoom.
The world's smallest Zoom compact in its class. Five 'modes' to match your subject. Stylish aluminium casing. Optional remote control.
£249.99

Minolta (UK) Ltd, Rookley Park, Precedent Drive, Rookley, Milton Keynes, MK13 9FE.

MINOLTA

Opposition takes fight into Taliban heartland

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AFGHAN opposition forces seized two areas in a pre-dawn surprise attack against the Taliban militia north of Kabul, inflicting dozens of casualties, Taliban soldiers reported yesterday.

Forces loyal to Ahmed Shah Masood captured two places in heavy fighting in Kapisa province near the town of Jabul Siraj, 48 miles from Kabul.

They seized Gulbahaar township and Sherkat, the site of a textile mill — both in Kapisa — only three miles east of Jabul Siraj, according to Taliban sources. The attack was launched before dawn prayers. Ziaul Gul, a Taliban soldier, said.

The Taliban troops, crouching in a bunker against incoming mortars, admitted losing dozens of their men in the surprise assault. "From a 100-strong group, only five Taliban returned and the rest were taken prisoner, killed or wounded," they said.

General Masood's troops gained ground in Kapisa after mounting the attack from the

mouth of the Panjshir Valley and adjacent villages east of the Salang highway. Earlier, independent sources in Kabul said at least 50 wounded Taliban soldiers were evacuated to the Afghan capital from the front lines.

In Delhi, the Afghan Ambassador to India claimed the Taliban was pushed out of a wide swath of northern provinces which it had captured five days ago with the help of defectors from the anti-Taliban alliance.

General Masood, known for his military exploits in the holy war during the 1979-89 occupation of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union, is entrenched in his native Panjshir.

Yesterday's attack was the second by General Masood's troops in four days along the Salang highway linking Kabul with the Central Asian border. It came after the Taliban claimed to have reopened the highway, moving convoys to the beleaguered north, where the Islamic militia has had to retreat from the

key city of Mazar-i-Sharif after heavy fighting on Tuesday and Wednesday. Red Cross officials in Kabul said hundreds of people had been killed in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The Islamic warriors had to beat a retreat from Mazar-i-Sharif only four days after they poured into the city, capitalising on a revolt against the ousted Uzbek warlord, Abdul Rashid Dostum, by his key commander, Abdul Malik. General Malik broke the alliance with the Taliban on Tuesday after the Islamic militiamen reportedly started disarming a Shia group and others, leading to fierce fighting.

Life was slowly returning to normal in the war-ravaged northern city a day after the rout of its Taliban Islamic militia captors by local Afghan forces. Shops reopened and people returned to the streets, apparently happy at the retreat of the Taliban fighters. Witnesses said bodies of Taliban fighters and burnt-out lorries and other vehicles lay in the streets of Mazar-i-

Sharif, now firmly in control of ethnic Uzbek troops of General Malik.

"The Pakistanis were very happy when their ambassador came to Mazar. It was a celebration for Pakistan: now they are crying because of what happened to the Taliban," a resident, Amir Shah, said. "All the people in the town were fighting the Taliban," he added.

A UN convoy with 53 foreigners evacuated from embattled Mazar-i-Sharif has been held up at Termez on the Uzbekistan side of the border. UN sources said. The convoy was stopped for unknown reasons by Uzbek guards at Termez after having travelled 37 miles safely, they said.

In Ankara, the exiled General Dostum said last night he wanted to make peace with General Malik. General Dostum said he wanted Ankara to mediate between him and General Malik.

General Dostum fled to Turkey after his overthrow. He has been staying in an Ankara hotel since May 24.

Killings in Timor cast pall over Suharto victory

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE worst outbreak of violence for two years in the disputed territory of East Timor on Wednesday night overshadowed voting in Indonesia's general election yesterday.

The first results last night made clear that the ruling Golkar party was heading for its sixth successive landslide majority. Figures announced by Yogie Memei, the election committee chairman, showed that, with just 2 per cent of the vote counted, Golkar had taken 91.9 per cent, the Muslim-oriented United Development Party (PPP) 6.24 per cent, and the divided Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) 1.85 per cent.

Golkar won 68 per cent of the vote in the 1992 election and had been aiming for 70 per cent this time. The PPP won 17 per cent in 1992 and the PDI 15 per cent.

In East Timor, police chief Colonel Yusuf Muharam said a soldier guarding a polling booth was shot dead yesterday, bringing to 14 the number of deaths in the territory since Wednesday night.

It was then that separatist rebels launched a series of attacks on police stations and polling booths in Dili, the East Timor capital, and three other towns. Colonel Muharam said police had shot four rebels who attacked a police station

in Dili and that guerrillas had shot nine civilians in other attacks.

But church sources in the town of Ermera said nine soldiers had been killed in a polling-booth attack in the town early yesterday.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and annexed it the following year. The United Nations still regards Portugal as the legal power.

Portugal yesterday condemned Indonesia's handling of the election in East Timor. Jaime Gama, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, a harsh critic of Indonesia's occupation of the territory, said his Government had made a formal complaint to the UN.

The attacks came at the end of the most violent election in Indonesia since President Suharto came to power in 1966. More than 250 people have died since April 26.

Voting proceeded uneventfully across the rest of the country as more than 130,000 troops and police were deployed. Armed soldiers patrolled Jakarta where offices and shops remained closed. A high turnout of the 124 million electorate was predicted.

Indonesians were voting for 425 of the 500 seats in the House of Representatives. The remaining 75 are reserved for the armed forces.



Indonesian troops in riot gear standing guard at a Jakarta polling station during yesterday's vote.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

NOW PRINTED IN CHARLEROI

Make your family or friends living abroad feel at home

Set up a subscription to The Times for them at substantial discounts off local cover price and let them enjoy early morning delivery on the day of publication.

SINGLE DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE.

The Times: Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it.

Single day hand delivery is available as follows: Belgium — main cities; France — Paris and most areas in postcodes 92, 93, 94; Luxembourg — Luxembourg; some day delivery by post: Netherlands — main cities; Spain — most areas in Madrid and Barcelona; Switzerland — Geneva, Bern & Zurich. Mail delivery is usually one day late. Please call for details on hand delivery areas and mail delivery.

HAND DELIVERY RATES (except Rest of Europe)						
Country	12 months	6 months	3 months	1 month	1 week	1 day
Belgium	£57.00	£29.00	£15.00	£8.00	£4.00	£2.00
France	£57.00	£29.00	£15.00	£8.00	£4.00	£2.00
Germany	£57.00	£29.00	£15.00	£8.00	£4.00	£2.00
Italy	£57.00	£29.00	£15.00	£8.00	£4.00	£2.00
Spain	£57.00	£29.00	£15.00	£8.00	£4.00	£2.00
Switzerland	£57.00	£29.00	£15.00	£8.00	£4.00	£2.00
Rest of Europe	£57.00	£29.00	£15.00	£8.00	£4.00	£2.00

THE TIMES SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Please enter my subscription for:

☐ 12 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 3 months ☐ 1 month ☐ 1 week ☐ 1 day

☐ Monday to Saturday ☐ Sunday only

☐ Other days — Please specify

Payment by:

☐ Cheque (cash payable to News International)

☐ Credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard/Access

☐ Debit card ☐ Euro ☐ Other

Signature _____ Date _____

Post Office _____

Telephone _____

I understand that I am entering my details for the purpose of receiving the Times by post and that I agree to the terms and conditions of the offer.

Phone 0800 414 525, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, 0800 414 525, 24 hours.

Post Office 0800 414 525, 24 hours.

0800 414 525, 24 hours.

Rich prizes for China's 'red princes'

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA is determined to keep political power in the hands of its current leaders in 2000, bolstered by the sons and daughters of Communist Party stalwarts such as the late Deng Xiaoping.

As preparations are made for the fifteenth party congress, to assemble in Beijing some time this autumn, information leaking from the mainland places the current supreme five leaders at the apex of the next regime, topped by President Jiang Zemin, the party General Secretary and chairman of the Central Military Commission.

Among the so-called "red princes" — the offspring of party veterans — who will attend the congress and may ascend to the Central Committee are Deng's son, Pufang, and daughter, Nan.

Two "princes" heavily involved in finance and banking, Liu Yuan, the son of ex-President Liu Shaoqi, and Chen Yuan, son of the late Chen Yun, will attend the congress.

Shot fired at leader in Cambodia

Phnom Penh: Hun Sen, the Cambodian Co-Prime Minister, survived an apparent assassination attempt when a shot was fired at his car. Mr Hun Sen was not hurt, but a motorcycle escort rider was slightly wounded. The gunman escaped.

Officials said that on Wednesday evening at least one shot was fired at Mr Hun Sen's car from a rifle equipped with a silencer. (Reuters)

High flyer held

Amsterdam: An air hostess employed by the Dutch airline KLM has been arrested with ten kilos of cocaine in her baggage on the return flight from Surinam in South America. (AFP)

Jailbirds' song

Bangkok: Two Thais arrested on murder charges sang loudly to drown the sound of sawing as they cut their way to freedom through the bars of a jail at Khampeng Phet, 200 miles north of here. (AP)

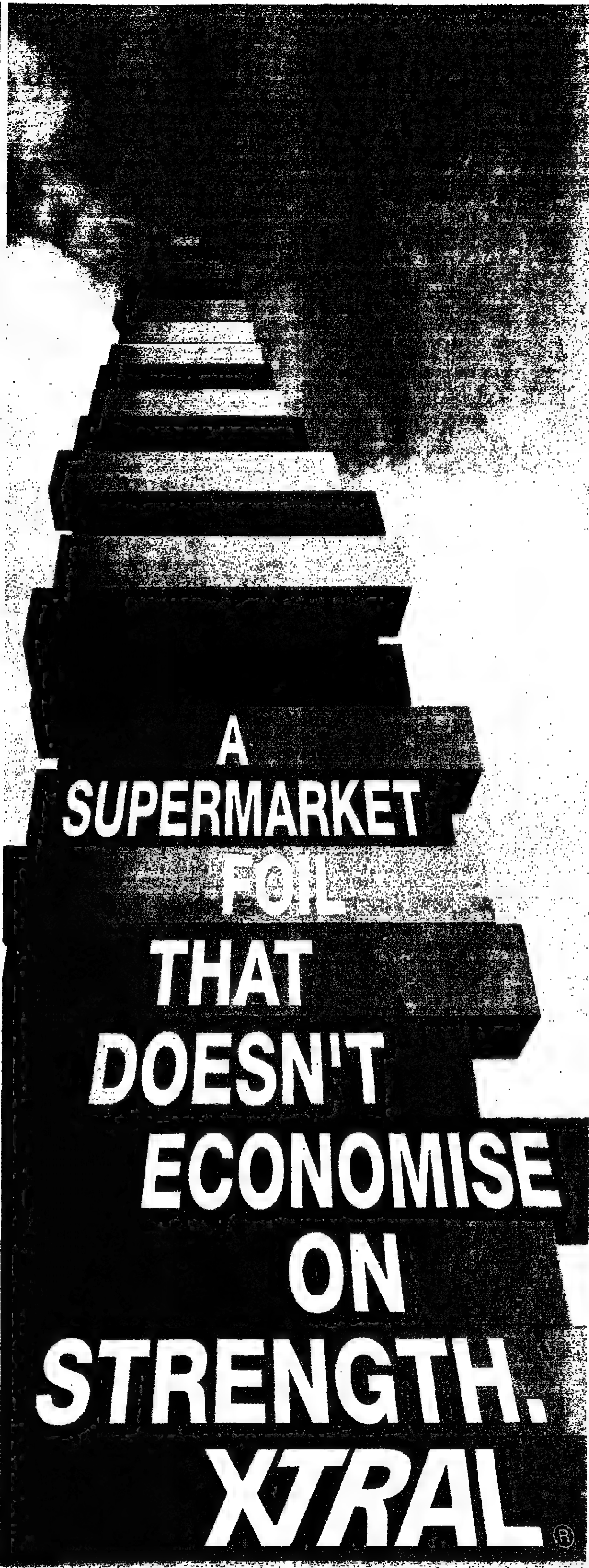
Renewing your home insurance in June or July and want to save money?

If you are 50 or over call free!

0800 414 525 quoting reference TMS727

SAGA Services Ltd

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, Saturdays 9am to 1pm. SAGA Services Ltd would like to send you information about other SAGA products and services and may pass on your details to other SAGA companies for this purpose.



Your supermarket foil has just got stronger. In fact 15% stronger. But still only costs supermarket prices. All thanks to XTRAL — a unique formula, extra strength foil.

Now there's a strong reason to look out for the XTRAL logo on packs of your supermarket foil.

XTRA STRENGTH
XTRA VALUE
XTRAL

NOT ONLY
DO DAEWOO
GIVE YOU
ALL THIS AS
STANDARD...

Every Daewoo comes with the following comprehensive package:

1. We deal direct:
More for your money as standard, including Electronic ABS, Driver's airbag, power steering.

2. Hassle free buying:
Fixed prices including delivery and 12 months road tax.

3. Complete peace of mind:

3 year/60,000 mile free servicing including parts and labour.

3 years free comprehensive insurance, subject to status.

3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty.

3 year Daewoo Total AA Cover.

6 year anti-corrosion warranty.

4. Courtesy servicing:
Free courtesy car whenever yours is in for a service.

Daewoo prices range from just £9,445 to £13,735 for 3, 4 and 5 door Nexia and Espero Saloon.

For more information call 0800 666 222.

PEACE OF MIND
AS STANDARD?
THAT'LL BE THE
DAEWOO.

Applicants to Nato club surrender veto right

FROM MICHAEL EVANS IN SINTRA, PORTUGAL

ELEVEN countries which have applied to join Nato have agreed voluntarily not to block any nation from becoming members of the alliance.

Although the agreement will not be enforceable by law, the effective surrender of the right of veto will remove a significant obstacle to Nato's "open door" policy under which its plans for enlargement will be completed in two, three or even four phases.

Without the voluntary agreement, reached during a programme of dialogue between Nato and countries wishing to join the alliance, it would have been possible for those in the first wave, expected to be Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, and possibly Romania and Slovenia, to object to a second wave at a later date.

The list of applicants includes the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Moldova and the three Baltic states, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Albania has also indicated an interest in joining, but has not yet started a dialogue.

The voluntary deal was revealed at a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Sintra

which provided the first opportunity for the alliance to address the issue of who should be invited to join in the first wave.

Nato governments will make the final choice by the end of June and the selected countries will be told of their successful application a few days before the alliance summit in Madrid in July when a formal invitation will be made.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, making his first appearance at Nato's North Atlantic Council, said Britain had not yet made up its mind whether to support a first wave of three, four or five countries. Romania and Slovenia are biding hard to be included and appear to have won more supporters within the alliance.

According to Portuguese diplomatic sources, the line-up of Nato members arguing for five new members in the first wave now consists of France, Canada, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

The sources said the United States wanted only Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary; Britain, they said, was moving towards supporting Slovenia

to make it four, and Germany was also considering Slovenia, although the principal backers were in the Bundestag.

Mr Cook said the entry of the three front-runners into the alliance, one of which — Poland, with 38.5 million inhabitants — has a large population, "was not a small enlargement". And he emphasised the importance of ensuring that Nato's strengths as a military organisation were not "diluted".

He also underlined that any new members of the alliance had to contribute towards improving the security of the whole of Europe. This was one of the main objectives of the enlargement programme.

However, John Burns, the US State Department spokesman, said a "strategic judgement" had been made that enlargement could involve several phases without undermining the effectiveness and credibility of the alliance.

There is no date set for the second wave, although some Nato sources indicated that it could be 2001 or 2002.

Underlining America's enthusiasm for an expanding Nato, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, said

that the programme was not going to be like "the Hale-Bopp comet, coming round once every 3,000 years".

Although all the foreign ministers were full of praise for the deal signed with Russia in Paris on Tuesday, guaranteeing close co-operation and consultation between Nato and Moscow on mutual security interests, they made it clear that the alliance's expansion plans would go ahead without Russian involvement.

President Yeltsin had stated that the Baltic states should not be allowed to join Nato. "But we don't agree with that," Mr Burns said.

In another move to develop a changed security environment in Europe, Gennadi Udovenko, the Foreign Minister of Ukraine, initiated a special charter with Nato which will guarantee consultation and a "distinctive" partnership, along the lines of the agreement signed with Russia, although not on such a comprehensive scale.

A new body has also been set up in Nato to upgrade contacts with the six Mediterranean countries of Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia.



Rabbi Shmura Shore examines Melody, the ten-month-old heifer, to verify that it is really totally red-haired

Israel's 'secret map' cuts Palestinian land by half

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI plans to offer the Palestinians control of about 40 per cent of the occupied West Bank in a final peace deal, less than half of what they were expecting, according to a report in yesterday's *Haaretz*, the Tel Aviv paper.

The report by Ze'ev Schiff, its defence analyst, included what it claimed was a "secret map" drawn up by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, for presentation to the Palestinians when the final status talks — at present in abeyance — are resumed.

The report followed Wednesday's first session of Israel's inner security Cabinet to discuss the blueprint for a final peace plan. A rival newspaper *Yediot Aharonot* had slightly different figures, claiming that Israel's defence establishment had proposed that "at least 40 per cent of the occupied territories" remained under Israeli sovereignty.

The *Haaretz* report, despite a denial by Mr Netanyahu, infuriated the Palestinians and was described by one independent Israeli security expert as likely to provoke an immediate walkout by the Arabs if it was ever formally laid on the negotiating table.

Under the previous Labour administration, the Palestinians had been led to believe that in final status negotia-

tions, due to be completed in May 1999, they could expect to regain about 90 per cent of the West Bank. They are hoping to use the land to establish an independent state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

Referring to the *Haaretz* report, backed by a detailed front page version of the alleged "secret map", Ahmed Tibi, Yasser Arafat's top adviser, told Israeli army radio: "These numbers, excuse the expression, are political masturbation by the Government of Israel." He argued that Israel should negotiate with the Palestinians on the final framework, rather than debate it among themselves.

Mr Tibi called the map "a shot with automatic fire at the dying body of the Oslo peace accord".

Saeed Erekat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said of the Netanyahu plan: "This is not acceptable. He is negotiating with himself, or rather with himself and other extremists in his government. He has forgotten he has a partner."

In fact, the Palestinians themselves have broken off all peace talks since Israel began building a settlement at Har Homa in annexed east Jerusalem on March 18. Egypt is now struggling to bring the sides together. Publication of the figures sparked a furore

which could fuel further violence.

Mr Netanyahu acknowledged that he had some ideas about the shape of a final deal and said they were discussed for the first time on Wednesday when the military presented its security assessments. "There is no basis to that report because I did not show to anyone [a map] nor did I draw a map," the Prime Minister told Israeli radio.

Asked whether he had a map, he replied in a fashion which Palestinians saw as confirming their fears: "We have a map in our head. Who hasn't?"

According to Mr Schiff the Palestinians would not be offered a land link between the northern and southern parts of their territory in the West Bank. Israel would, in addition, retain a swath of land in the West Bank's Jordan Valley along the Jordanian border, and around Jerusalem.

"The secret map which Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu intends to present to the Palestinian Authority in final status negotiations would give them less than 40 per cent of the area," Mr Schiff wrote. He claimed that over time, if the security situation warranted, they could obtain some additional West Bank territory.

Heifer 'is portent of Messiah'

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A THEOLOGICAL controversy has erupted in Israel over a ten-month-old farm animal named Melody, believed by some Jews to be the first red heifer born in the Holy Land in two millennia.

Yesterday the beast was whiling away its time in the farming village of Kfar Hasi-dim in northern Israel, blissfully unaware of the furore that it has provoked in a country where it is seen by an extreme minority as an extraordinary portent for the new millennium.

Some Israelis claim it is the harbinger of the Messiah, while others demand that it be killed before it sparks new Middle Eastern violence on a scale greater than anything seen in recent decades.

"The red heifer is one of the most important signs that we are living in a special time," says Gershon Solomon, leader of an ultra-nationalist Israeli group dedicated to rebuilding the ancient Jewish Temple, destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

There are fears that some Jewish extremist groups will interpret the birth of the heifer, produced by artificial insemination from a bull in Switzerland, as a sign the time is right to rebuild the Temple on a site now houses some of Islam's holiest shrines.

Judges sacked for opposing Fujimori

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Peruvian Congress yesterday dismissed three Supreme Court judges who had "dared" to vote against a constitutional amendment which would allow President Fujimori to run for a third term in the year 2000.

The three magistrates were escorted from the Constitutional Tribunal in Lima by armed police shortly after the Congress — made up of a majority of Fujimori supporters — had voted to remove them because they were stalling efforts to extend the President's mandate. The

governing Cambio 90-Nueva Mayoria coalition mustered 52 votes, against the Opposition's 36, to sack the magistrates. Manuel Aguirre Roca, Guillermo Rey Terry and Delia Revoredo Marsano had declared that the law allowing a President two consecutive terms was "not applicable" to Señor Fujimori's wish to run a third time.

Known to Peruvians as the "little emperor", Señor Fujimori was elected for the first time in 1990 and re-elected in 1995. He claims that because the constitutional reform allowing re-election was approved in the middle of his second term, it should apply to him.

It is not the first time that he has reverted to strongarm tactics, but it is the most blatant in weeks and yesterday triggered mass street protests against his authoritarian style. "We live in fear under a supposed democracy which acts like a dictatorship," said one of the demonstrators' banners in the Plaza de Armas in Lima.

In 1992 Señor Fujimori staged a self-styled coup, closing down the Congress and the Supreme Court with the help of the military. He gave the security forces extraordinary powers to clamp down on traditional parties, and in effect dismantled most of them.

...BUT WE
ALSO LET YOU
CHOOSE ONE
OF OUR 30TH
ANNIVERSARY
SALE OFFERS.

As part of our 30th anniversary celebrations, every private customer can choose one of these offers. Written details for all offers available on request.

SALE

1.) £500 worth of fuel vouchers.

SALE

2.) £500 cashback.

SALE

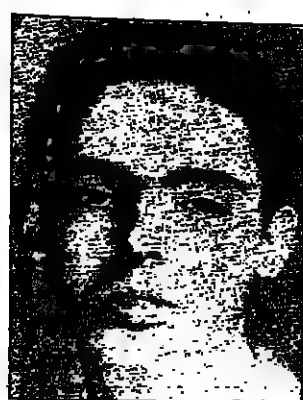
3.) Choice of up to £750 worth of Daewoo electronic products.

SALE

4.) £500 towards your deposit with Daewoo Direct Finance. Typical APR 11.2%.

For more information call 0800 666 222.

30TH
ANNIVERSARY
SALE OFFERS?
THAT'LL BE THE
DAEWOO.



Pynchon: reclusive but bestselling author

Trendy New Yorkers lap up cult writer's indigestible novel

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

IT could be described as the book everyone is wearing. *Mason & Dixon*, the almost incomprehensible new novel by Thomas Pynchon, has become the latest American fashion accessory.

The 773-page monster is poised near the pinnacle of the bestseller lists, as thousands of buyers flock to bookshops in search of the latest intellectual bauble. More than \$200,000 (£125,000) has been spent by Henry Holt and Co, the publish-

ers, on selling the book, and their investment appears to have paid off. The first print run of 175,000 — astonishingly large for a book as dense as a Mississippi swamp — could be sold out by the middle of next month, a mere six weeks after its first appearance.

Wry observers, however, attribute *Mason & Dixon*'s success to its unreadability. Melik Kaylan, a former editor at *Spy* magazine, describes the book as "a 1990s version of *The Name of the Rose*". He said: "New York's literary nomenclature want to be seen

carrying worthy books... Umberto Eco served people's needs admirably in the last decade, what with the generous infusions of Latin in his text. Pynchon, too, is great for posing with... perfect for women who spend their whole day draped languidly over a chair at the Museum of Modern Art's café with a book perched on their knees."

Another cynic remarked: "People enjoy holding up their fat new book and saying, 'Like my new jacket'."

The book's publishers have not been blind to the cachet lurking in

abstruse prose. Although Cathy Melnicki, the publicist at Holt, describes *Mason & Dixon* as "a really accessible, kind of familiar, two-guys-go-into-the-woods story", she was careful to emphasise that "reading Pynchon makes people feel smart".

The book tells the story of the men behind the Mason-Dixon Line, which once divided the so-called "free states" from the slave states in America, and which now serves as a useful metaphor for the boundary between the Enlightened North and the Deep South. It is a thinking

man's "buddy's tale", charting the relationship between two Englishmen, Charles Mason, an astronomer, and Jeremiah Dixon, a surveyor. Other characters include Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Samuel Johnson, a Chinese jeng shui master, a Swedish iridescentist, a robot duck and a talking dog.

Pynchon is puzzling to read, but not as puzzling as he is in real life. Sixty years old, and rated by many as among the finest living novelists in English, he is one of America's most reclusive writers. His alien-

ated view of the world rivals that of J.D. Salinger, the author of *The Catcher in the Rye*, and he has fought publicity throughout his life. On this occasion, however, he has offered his publishers more co-operation than ever before, giving his approval to book launch parties and other essentially non-Pynchonian frivolities. He did not even object to the holding of a "Thomas Pynchon look-alike contest" to mark the publication of the book on April 30.

Leading article, page 21

McVeigh lawyers wind up lightning bomb trial defence

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

LAWYERS for Timothy McVeigh rested their case in the Oklahoma City bombing trial yesterday after presenting a defence that was startling for its brevity.

They gambled that three and a half days of testimony were sufficient to answer the prosecution's cascade of circumstantial evidence linking Mr McVeigh to the explosion that destroyed the federal building, killing 168 people and wounding more than 500 others.

Mr McVeigh, 29, did not take the witness stand in his defence. No alibi was offered. Nor did the defence come close to presenting "the rest of the story" that would establish absolute proof of Mr McVeigh's innocence, as promised by his chief lawyer, Stephen Jones, in a opening statement in Denver.

Mr Jones insisted to reporters: "We've done everything we came to Denver to do. We've done our best."

Yesterday saw closing arguments followed by Judge Richard Matsch's summation. Jurors were expected to deliberate today and will be sequestered over the weekend, if necessary.

Mr McVeigh's legal aid defence has cost \$10 million (£6.2 million). Large sums went on a global search of involvement by international terrorism. Investigators pursued suggestions that home-grown militia wanted to blow

up federal buildings. All the defence hopes crumbled when the no-nonsense judge ruled that alternate theories about a broader conspiracy were irrelevant to the trial.

Saving his biggest salvo until last, Mr Jones sought to discredit Michael and Lori Fortier, star prosecution witnesses who said Mr McVeigh, their best man, told them in detail about bombing the federal building and used soap tins on their kitchen floor to show how to stack explosives.

The Fortiers, who admitted under oath that they had lied at first, were portrayed by Mr Jones as drug users trying to save their skins. He played FBI wiretaps in which Mr Fortier bragged of making \$1 million from the tabloids by concocting a story about the case to mislead agents.

Other defence highlights: □ Mystery bomber: One left leg in the rubble could not be identified. Thomas Marshall, a British pathologist with experience of IRA bombings, said the leg must mean there was a 169th victim, the suggestion being that it was the real bomber.

□ FBI laboratory woes: The defence hammered away at reports of sloppy work that could have contaminated evidence.

□ Identity doubts: Witnesses contradicted prosecution evidence about who rented the van and when, suggesting Mr McVeigh was misidentified as

the driver and a victim of coincidence.

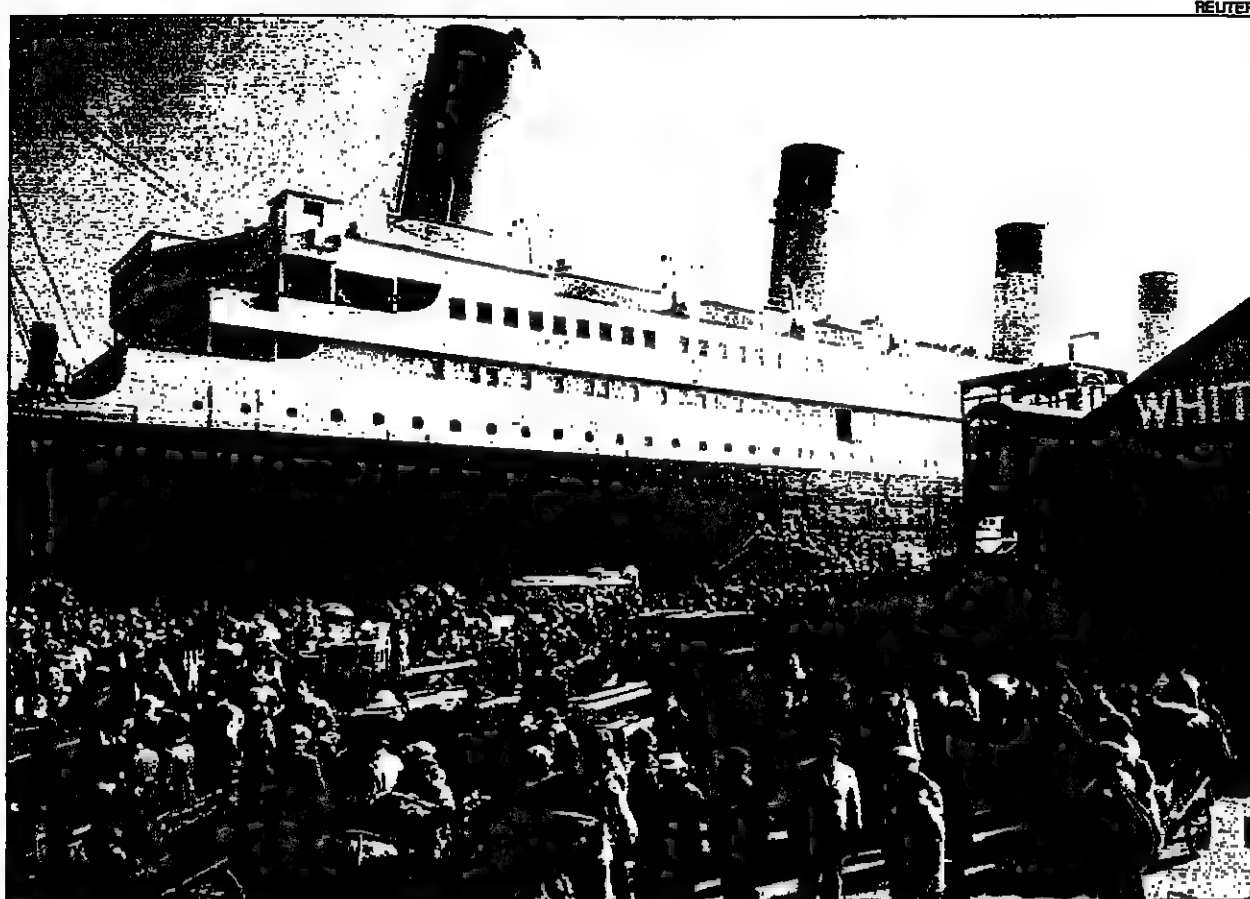
The defence was hurt, though, by calling a witness who declared, for the first time, that she saw a light-skinned man jump out of the van just before it blew up. She did not rule out the figure being Mr McVeigh.

The prosecution failed to place Mr McVeigh at the bomb scene or to detail when and how he built the bomb, but doggedly built a persuasive case over 19 days and 137 witnesses, including the Fortiers.

Among key allegations were that Mr McVeigh was a hater of government who planned the bombing to avenge the FBI raid that killed 80 cult members at Waco; he studied bomb making and his fingerprints were on a receipt for 2,000lb of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, the bomb's main ingredient; and the number on the mangled axle on the van was traced to a rental agency where the owner identified Mr McVeigh as the renter two days before the blast.

There was also forensic evidence: traces of high explosives were found on Mr McVeigh's clothing and earplugs when his car was stopped north of Oklahoma City 75 minutes after the bombing.

If jurors find Mr McVeigh guilty they must decide whether to impose the death penalty or a life sentence.



The Titanic in a scene from James Cameron's \$200 million epic film, which has run into budget problems

Titanic adrift in battle of blockbusters

FROM GILES WHITELL IN LOS ANGELES

THE colossal expensive "action romance" set on board the doomed liner, *Titanic*, has pulled out of the battle of the summer blockbusters beset by delays and competition from *Dinosaur*, *Batman* and *Robin*, and a hijacked *Ali* Force One.

The three-hour epic starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio is already the costliest film of all time at an estimated \$200 million (£122 million) and counting. It now

faces an extra bill of up to \$20 million for interest alone as it waits seven more months to be released.

Ending months of speculation, Robert Friedman of Paramount Pictures admitted this week that the film was still not finished. He set December 19 for its release in North America; 20th Century Fox will release it in Europe soon afterwards.

The studios backed director James Cameron's mammoth opus in a rare joint venture, with Paramount's share of costs capped at \$65 million.

Variety, which is running a *Titanic* watch column on rumours of the film's chronic overruns and budget problems, has put its total cost, including film stock and advertising, at \$285 million.

Mr Friedman said both studios believe "the film can play well in any season", but it is an open secret that Mr Cameron's love of detail and special effects made his original July 2 deadline unfeasible.

If released any later in the summer, the film risked being bludgeoned out of the market place by the season's other

heavy hitters. *The Lost World*, featuring an animatronic *Tyrannosaurus rex*, swept past the \$100 million mark after five days and is expected to linger in cinemas for weeks.

Arnold Schwarzenegger plays Mr Freeze in Warner Brothers' *Batman* and *Robin* next month, and Harrison Ford hopes to trounce them all in July, going toe to toe with terrorists in his own jumbo as the President in *Air Force One*. All except *The Lost World* cost more than \$100 million to make.

US SUMMARY

Republican star quits politics for TV career

New York Susan Molinari, a Staten Island Republican and the highest-ranking woman on Capitol Hill, will leave Congress soon for a career on television (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

Ms Molinari, so well regarded by her party that she was chosen to give the keynote address at the Republican National Convention last year, will join CBS News as a Saturday morning "anchor" in August. Analysts suggest that her "pro-choice" stance on abortion had affected her prospects for advancement within the Republican Party.

Six-year-old girl killed in casino

Las Vegas: A man whose six-year-old daughter was murdered in a casino lavatory while he gambled has been accused by the casino management of claiming funeral expenses and \$100 (about £62) of gaming chips in return for not suing (Giles Whittell writes). Leroy Iverson, 57, has hired Johnnie Cochran, formerly O.J. Simpson's defence lawyer, to clear his name.

OJ to appeal

Santa Monica: The lawyer for O.J. Simpson has filed a notice that the former football star intends to appeal against last February's wrongful death verdict in which the judge ordered him to pay \$33.5 million to the victims' families. (AP)

WHERE
WILL
YOUR
WEEK
END?



You could be full of the joys of spring if you escape to the country on a Forte Heritage break. Get away from the daily grind at one of 45 charming hotels across the country, each with a unique style and setting, excellent cuisine and first-rate service. With all this - and extremely attractive prices too - it's the perfect opportunity to take time out and get away from it all.

THREE NIGHTS FROM £117 per person

Chipping Barnard	The Two Brewers	£117
Kington	Kington Lodge Hotel	£122*
Roxbury	The White Horse	£123
Stratford	The Bear of Rodborough	£123
Leeds	The Quinners	£128
Stamford	Wharfedale Hall	£132
Exeter	The Southgate	£136
Rothley/Lakes	Rothley Court	£136
Alington	The Upper Reaches	£138
Driffield	The White Horse	£147
Forest of Dean	The Speech House	£147
Mallock Bath	The New Bath Hotel	£148
Onneville	The Talbot	£148
Thetford	The Bell	£153
Brampton/Warwick	The Brandon Hall	£155
Hemsworth	The Green Dragon	£157
Bath	The Lancelotti Arms	£163
Dagbury	The Marine	£163
North Warwick	The George	£163
Rye	The Chaucer Hotel	£166
Canterbury	The Dart Marling Hotel	£168

3 NIGHTS,
DINNER, BED AND
FULL TRADITIONAL
BREAKFAST
FROM
£44
PER PERSON PER NIGHT
OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL 29TH JUNE 1997

FORTE
Heritage

BOOK BEFORE 6TH JUNE, 1997. SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR CALL
0345 40 40 40
TODAY, QUOTING REFERENCE: THE TIMES

Prices are per person based on 3 nights accommodation, full traditional breakfast, table d'hôte dinner & VAT at 17.5% based on 2 adults sharing a standard room/double room. A single supplement may be charged. Please see Reservations Agents for details and costs. Bookings must be taken up to or before 29th June 1997. All reservations are subject to availability. A limited number of reservations may be held on request. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion. Seats must be taken from Friday to Sunday, please see website for full details. Bank Holiday weekends are excluded from this offer, prices available on request.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Midland's mortgages are subject to security and status. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policy(ies). The following example illustrates monthly repayments for a typical capital-repayment fixed-rate mortgage of £40,000 over 25 years with interest fixed at 5.99% until 30/07/1999. Thereafter, interest is charged at our variable rate which is currently 7.60%. Estimated costs and fees are based on a valuation or purchase price of £55,000 and include an estimated valuation fee of £110 although this may vary according to the property's value. A £150 booking fee is payable when the application is agreed in principle. Booking and valuation fees are refunded on draw-down. In addition to figures quoted below, premiums for the required mortgage protection policy are payable: 24 net monthly payments of £238.44 followed by 276 net monthly repayments of £271.20. Total gross amount payable £28,061.90 (APR 7.2%). All APRs variable. For a written quotation, call 0800 494 999. All calls are recorded and may be monitored as part of our on-going review of service quality. Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. BU/43. Member FSCB Group

We heard you wanted...

a first-time buyer's rate
of 5.99% (7.6% APR)

No one wants to take risks with their money. So now Midland's fixed-rate mortgage gives you the financial security to plan ahead: you can safely budget until July 1999 for essentials like furnishing your house and other home improvements. What's more, it's just part of a complete mortgage package that lets you choose the options you feel most comfortable with.

Midland
The Listening Bank

Call 0800 494 999
www.midlandbank.com

Call for a quotation



or visit a branch



Mandelson and the new mandarins

Sue Cameron investigates the Secret Seven who run Whitehall

As you open *The Times* this morning, some of the most influential men in Britain will be meeting in Downing Street to set the agenda for tomorrow's newspapers. Let us call them the Secret Seven.

Only one of those present — the number varies from day to day — has been democratically elected. Most of the others, however able, are party placemen. They wield power not because they have been chosen by the voters, nor because they have earned their posts by beating rivals in competitive Civil Service examinations. They are there because they have won favour at the court of Tony Blair. Their ultimate loyalty is not to the public interest, but to Labour.

There has been no public debate about handing power to the men who attend the daily 9am meetings in the warren of rooms that connects Downing Street with the Cabinet Office. Parliament was not consulted. Now Sir Michael Bett, the Civil Service Commissioner, has delivered an open warning to the Government not to fill too many Whitehall posts with party apparatchiks.

The men who roused Sir Michael's concern are Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's chief of staff, and Alastair Campbell, the No 10 press secretary. Both attend the 9am agenda-setting meetings each morning which are chaired by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio. Reports from Labour's media-monitoring service are delivered to Mr Campbell and Mr Mandelson at 8am. By 8.45, copies have been sent to all special advisers in Whitehall. At 9, the meeting convenes. The "Big Four" — the Prime Minister, his Deputy, the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor — are often represented by their special advisers.

These are new Labour's gatekeepers, the men who have the ear of their masters, who control access to them and who are starting to eclipse politically neutral civil servants like Alex Allan, the Principal Private Secretary at No 10. Mr Allan, who served John Major and continues to serve Mr Blair for the moment, is to be posted abroad. When he goes he will be replaced by Jonathan Powell, who is, of course, the brother of Sir Charles Powell, Margaret Thatcher's Principal Private Secretary for foreign affairs. There is one crucial difference. Like Mr Allan, Charles was a career civil servant. Jonathan is a Labour Party man.

His appointment and the way Labour's spin-doctors have engineered a place for themselves at the heart of government signify a profound change in Whitehall. Whether the Civil Service was politicised under the Tories is a moot point; it is certainly being politicised now.

Not that Labour failed to give warning of its intentions. In his book *The Blair Revolution*, Mr Mandelson wrote last year that Tony Blair "has to get personal control of the central government machine". Mr Mandelson saw the need for a "stronger political presence in No 10" to provide "political advice", which "nei-

ther the private office nor the Cabinet Office can do, because they are not supposed to get involved in politics... The political office at No 10, the policy unit and the press office all have political roles to play," he wrote, adding that the Prime Minister would need "a non-ministerial political manager inside No 10".

This blueprint for a Blair administration has been followed meticulously. Within 48 hours of coming to power, the Government quietly secured a Privy Council Order giving Messrs. Powell and Campbell — plus one other unnamed person — the right to wield executive authority over regular civil servants. The order was reported at the time, but it was only this week, when Sir Michael blew the whistle, that the Government began claiming that the move was designed to reinforce civil service impartiality.

Nobody in the Civil Service or the media can be in any doubt about where influence lies in this centralised, politically conscious Whitehall — even if things occasionally go awry. Though the Mandelson meeting decided on May 19 that John Prescott's summit on water was to be the big story of the day, the broadcast-

casters opted to give more prominence to the decision to end the tobacco industry's sponsorship of sporting events. To avoid such blips, additional Labour Party people are being brought into the Government machine, for example into the No 10 press office. Labour's Dave Hill, who sometimes attends the 9am meetings, is also supervising a horde of special advisers who are charged with monitoring Whitehall departments on the party's behalf.

Labour might argue that such moves are less radical than they appear. As John Major's deputy, Michael Heseltine held joint meetings of civil servants and Tory officials every morning to discuss presentation. Labour attacked him for involving Whitehall in party politics. Now Labour is following his example, but the Mandelson group is more tightly focused and effective.

Whitehall's reaction to this politicisation has been muted. Mr Blair is a shrewd operator. One of his first moves was to address the regular Wednesday morning meeting of the permanent secretaries — to such good effect that some returned to their departments in a state of infatuation.

Other countries, including France and America, have politicised civil services in which key members change when the government changes. Such a system brings new blood into the government. It ensures that politicians are served by people who share their goals. But it can also mean that party politics takes precedence over public interest.

Labour's moves may not lead to a return to the favouritism and backstairs intrigue that beset the State before jobbery was abolished in the 19th century, but they will mean a weakening of constitutional checks and balances. If there is to be change it must be with public consent — not by a stealthy transfer of power to the Secret Seven.

John Lloyd on the Government's attempt to square the Northern Irish circle as the marching season looms

Can Blair avoid another Drumcree?

There is a new mural in Belfast's Ormeau Road. Beneath the Irish Tricolour is a simple statement: "Sinn Féin. Stop Orange Marches!" This is the essence of the issue which in six weeks will confront the Government, as the Unionist marching season reaches its height. It now seems that a choice will have to be made between two incompatible ideas of rights; and by choosing one, the Government will court a violent response from the partisans of the other. Orangemen wish to march, as they have for two centuries. Nationalists wish to stop or control them, as they have recently discovered they can do.

The devil in Northern Ireland is in both the principle and the detail. The principle is freedom: Northern Ireland is a laboratory for the testing of freedoms, but no definition yet commands assent across the communities. The details lie on the streets of three small areas.

The first is the Ormeau Road area itself; the second the town of Portadown, south-west of Belfast; and the third the village of Dunloy, in North Antrim. In the largely Catholic village of Dunloy, a hardline Orange leadership insists on absolute freedom to parade. In the Ormeau Road and Portadown, residents' associations led by Sinn Féin resist any kind of march — but talks cannot be held because the Orange lodges refuse to talk to representatives with terrorist connections.

In Portadown a year ago, the police

reversed a decision to ban the march to Drumcree Church, and by forcing the parade through hundreds of protesters drawn partly from the nearby Catholic estates created yet another series of images of "brutality". Drumcree — as it swiftly became known — has been promoted assiduously as a high-point of Unionist triumphalism, supported by the State.

It is not that. It is a morass of Loyalist tradition, now resented and in some groups violent; of careful stoking of Nationalist grievances; of police forced to choose between rights to march and rights to protest against marches. However these elements are judged, Drumcree has been hugely useful to the Sinn Féin cause.

In proclaiming the need to "Stop Orange Marches", Sinn Féin taps a deep well of resentment against a past in which Unionists did beat their lambeg drums all about and through Catholic areas, to emphasise the status of the province. Now, as the Catholic population surges above 40 per cent, as Sinn Féin's vote rises from single figures to around 16 per

cent, as Unionists lose control of the councils in Cookstown, Fermanagh, Strabane and Belfast City (their vote being sullenly apathetic), as the Irish Republic waxes in wealth and self-confidence, Unionism sees itself standing not just on narrow, but on steadily narrowing ground.

How does new Labour address such an old conflict? Dr Marjorie Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has done so by emphasising the difference in style between her demotic self and the patrician Sir Patrick Mayhew, her Tory predecessor. She has walked about, talked to and in one case embraced those presented to her. She stresses the need for dialogue and tries to promote it. She has been to America to see the powerbrokers of the Irish lobby and to enlist them in the cause of persuading Sinn Féin to cease terrorism so that it can join the talks which begin next week.

But as Prime Minister, Tony Blair has made the running. His speech in Belfast two weeks ago was his largest rhetorical essay since taking office. He consigned any prospect of a united Ireland to far into the second half of next century; and by saying "I believe in the Union", he even suggested that as British Prime Minister he wants Northern Ireland to stay British and is not merely acquiescing in the need to preserve the link because the majority in the province demand it.

This is very "new Labour" in its determination to dissolve irrelevant old divisions. With Mowlam playing the Nationalist and Blair the Unionist side of the street — in nunciate and style only, of course — can agreement, somehow, be achieved?

No. These are merely the opening gambits. New Labour, knows, or will soon learn, that the government of a territory in contention between two national ambitions faces a choice sooner or later. Unionists believe that a choice was made, and that a long, slow withdrawal has been engineered by the Northern Irish Office, in cahoots with Irish governments as they have undertaken a long, slow takeover. Decried as paranoid, this

version of events remains the most plausible. But when left at that, it is also self-defeating. It prescribes either counter-terrorism or passivity.

Mr Blair's hint that this may not be his position — that he wants to see Northern Ireland actively reconfirmed within the UK — has given David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, a strategy. That strategy is to propose to Unionists and Nationalists that Northern Ireland's constitutional status must be accepted, but that its civic structures must be renewed on the basis of cultivated trust; that the discriminations, exclusions and insults of the past must be faced, admitted and tackled; and that a society of equals is available.

Trimble, at least in some moods, seems to be the leader capable of furthering that vision. But he needs Mowlam and Blair to protect his back against the ever-potent charge of betrayal. He needs to have the union guaranteed. He needs Mr Blair's belief in the union to be reinforced by more than one good speech.

In the devilish details of this summer's marching season, Labour's intent and resolve may become manifest. In making clear the terms under which it will permit marches, or the reasons why it will ban them, it will reveal the drift of its policy. The subby little step of Drumcree church pokes its way into British politics once more, demanding a response.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.

Progress may lead backwards

The geometry of politics lends movements a spurious inevitability

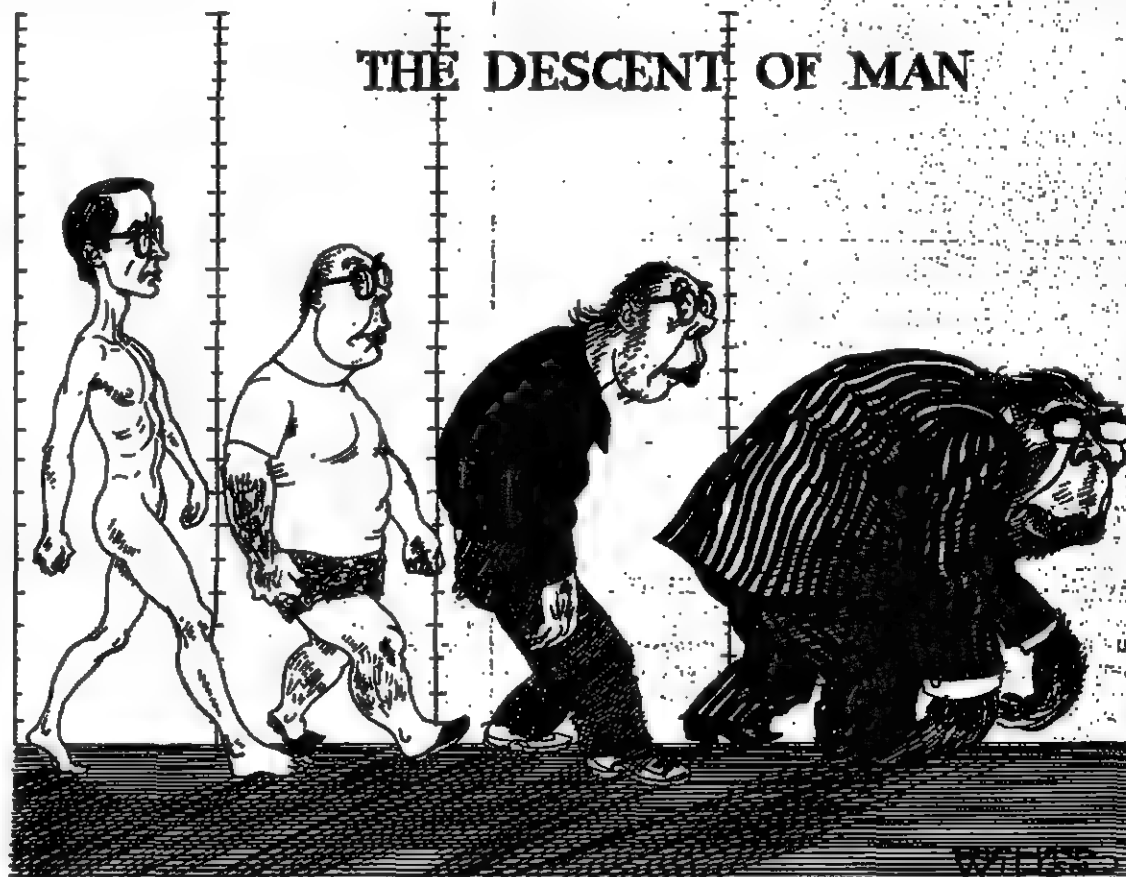
Reviewing Hugh Cecil's social history of homosexuality for this weekend's *Sunday Times*, I was teased by a question which lay outside the ambit of my review, because the author hardly discusses it. This is the question of "progress".

A book like his must make much of the idea of "progress" with homosexual reform, and this concept of progress is what teased me. My doubts are not about the desirability of removing prejudice against homosexuals, but about the word "progress", and the associated idea of "going forward" and "going back" when used to describe political or social change. Applied not to the physical world but to the world of ideas, Newtonian concepts of momentum combine with the sneaky judgmental choice of "forward" and "backward" to describe motion. The effect is subtly to infiltrate philosophy with physics. The process is at best questionable, at worst bogus.

Mr Cecil's powerfully argued contention is that the conviction of Oscar Wilde set back the cause of homosexual emancipation for decades (note "set back"). He shows how the self-publicist Wilde pushed the extravagantly gay life too far, creating a backlash (note "push" and "back-lash"). Later in the book he goes on to describe the resumption of progress towards homosexual equality, and the pace of progress in our own day.

I asked myself whether it was possible now, as it plainly was in 1895, for social change to go into "reverse". Does modern social progress operate on some sort of a ratchet, meaning that the pace of revolution can quicken or slow, even pause occasionally or "retreat" a little before another leap "forward", but cannot be significantly wound back?

The question is just as arresting when applied to the emancipation of women, to the ending of discrimination against black people, or to the "advance" of animal welfare, religious toleration or the disablement lobby. But equally arresting is the use of spatial concepts involving motion in a "forward" direction as the key metaphor for the description of social and political change. How important is this, subliminally, to the potency of an argument? How much of the force



progress with it can simply mean achieving, getting things done, without implying any judgment, good or bad, on what is being done.

And all three protests make a fair point. Are these not simply three ways in which common English usage employs the metaphor of a journey through time? Indeed, we do use "move forward" to mean "move onward in time". We do use it to mean "improve". And we do use it to mean "achieve". Where guile comes in is when speakers tangle these three meanings together. The confusion can propel us into accepting without question that it would be perverse to stop, to change direction, or to undo what has been done because you cannot "stand in the way of progress" or "go back to the past". Yet "going back" may well be — often is — a "forward step". And "progress" with a project may well be a regressive development. The apparent absurdity of such sentiments derives from the use within a single sentence of two metaphors each drawn from spatial reasoning, but differently employed.

For instance, there is no doubt that fundamentalist Islam is, in one sense, making great progress. All over the Muslim world, women are returning to purdah; in Afghanistan television sets are being destroyed. But to a liberal Westerner there is also a sense in which this is not progress at all. To a Shia it is progress in both senses. An Ayatollah would agree with our Prime Minister that "there is no going back to the arguments of the 1980s" — but he would mean something rather different.

The conflation of these distinct meanings of the metaphor of progress has much to answer for. It may be partly responsible for the Whig idea of the inevitability of liberalism, but it is not confined to liberal propagandists. Nazism inculcated in its adherents a powerful idea of "progress" and momentum, as, for half a century, did communism. That is not to deny that all three offered arguments for the rightness of their causes; but in popular reasoning and rhetoric they relied on being seen as Progress — and therefore to be welcomed. The future must come!

But like all lazy argument, the argument for the inevitability of progress covers with a cloak of apparent reason what may be weak, ill-considered, empty, rotten or simply atrocious. It is not unlike the peremptory parents' "Because" as an answer to a precocious child's "Why?" There's no stopping progress, can make a movement's rationale appear stronger than it is. Whether met among gay activists, Thatcherites or new Labour evangelists, it should be distrusted. It is as firm, and as brittle, as the crust on a *crème brûlée*.

Matthew Parris

of a "progressive" movement derives from the unconscious intuition that it would be futile to try to stop the future coming? Yet fascism, once carried just this far, and so did the Holy Roman Empire. The religious revival of the 19th century saw itself as and felt like a progressive movement, though among its indirect consequences was the sexual repression that ground Wilde beneath its heel.

Who can argue with "progress"? The most striking contemporary use of this rhetorical ploy for political ends was Margaret Thatcher's "U-turn" if you want to. The lady's not for turning. End of argument, surely, if one is not to advocate dangerous driving? In the same way, Tony Blair has in recent months developed a habit of responding to left-wing objections to his policies with the expression "we cannot go back to the past". A variation of this is "we cannot return to the arguments of the 1980s". He is also given to remarking "we have to look forward, not back", and that "we must develop policies to go forward to the new millennium".

Of course at the most literal level there is no gainsaying this. Clearly we cannot go back to the past. It is, however, possible to revive policies that were followed in the past. Ironically, "the arguments of the 1980s" to which we "cannot go back" were themselves precisely about going back. Going back to the private own-

ership of coalmines, steelworks, gasworks and railways; going back to the days when the State did not house people; to a time when trades unions had no legal immunities. But it is notable that Margaret Thatcher rarely used the metaphor of turning back the clock to recommend her policies.

Only in the ethical field (return to Victorian values) did she enlist the language of retreat; for although the vocabulary of the onward march has an overwhelming appeal, especially to younger men, there remains a secondary place in the hearts of the frightened, the passive or the insecure for the vocabulary of "going back home": the imagery of heaven, of return to the familiar and safe.

Part of Margaret Thatcher's potency was her melding of the two. She was a reactionary with a radical message, best captured in a phrase that Malcolm Rifkind (quoting Giuseppe di Lampedusa) once offered me: "If you want things to stay the same, things are going to have to change." Margaret Thatcher "went back" to the arguments of the 1950s,

the 1920s — even the 1870s. Yet now "going forward" to the new millennium involves not going back over arguments which did take us back — in part — to the century before socialism. But Mr Blair has "hit the ground running". Any fool knows you can only run forward. QED.

I offer these examples — Cecil's "homosexual progress", Thatcher's reluctance to countenance a "U-turn", and Blair's refusal to "go back to the past" — not to dispute their aims. I share all three. I cite them to show how useful the choice of metaphor can be in determining the success of a democratic project.

An objection must be answered: you may protest that it is not politicians' guile but common English, which treats time as a journey in which we travel forward to the future, with the past behind us. In this sense, to say we go forward is only to say we persist. We have all gone forward since the same time yesterday, with the clock — by 24 hours, to be precise.

Alternatively you may protest that the concept of "progressing" — of "taking a step forward" — is simply a metaphor to denote our approval of some change, words like "forward-looking" and "progressive" just mean "changing for the better".

Or you may protest that that innocent metaphor of moving forward has a third useful application: "moving a project forward" (making

Powell vaults

THE ANNUAL white-tie dinner at the Royal Academy the other night took on the character of a Whitehall farce after a case of mistaken identity involving two Lady Powells, a missing hearing aid and Sir Isaiah Berlin.

The dinner, held every year since the Academy was founded in 1770,

is the sort where spouses tend not to be asked. But when the architect Sir Philip Powell arrived, staff asked where his wife was, because they had a Lady Powell on the guest-list.

"Lawks, I thought she wasn't invited," said Sir Philip before scurrying off to phone his wife, at

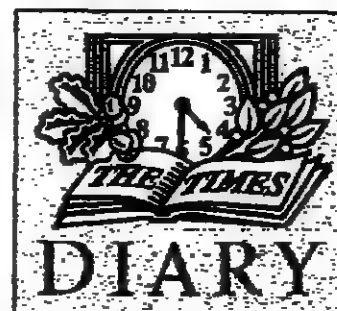
home nearby in London, and tell her to put her togs on sharpish and get down to the Academy.

Meanwhile, the Lady Powell who had been invited — Carla Powell, wife of Baroness Thatcher's former private secretary, Sir Charles, arrived in a flap having forgotten her hearing aid. She sent her driver back home to fetch it just as the other Lady Powell arrived.

The Academy managed to accommodate both Lady Powells for dinner, but were thrown when Carla Powell's driver returned with the missing hearing-aid. It was handed to the wrong Lady Powell, whose hearing is sound, just as she was talking to Sir Isaiah Berlin.

Astonished, she handed it to Sir Isaiah, who believed it to be his and promptly slipped it into his pocket. Lady (Carla) Powell went without her hearing-aid for the evening; Sir Philip and his wife received strange phone calls about the missing item over the weekend; and when Sir Isaiah returned home that evening, his wife demanded to know why he was in the possession of three hearing aids.

Lord Langford, 91, fell foul of security in the House of Lords on



Wednesday afternoon when he was locked in the library while writing the speech he was to deliver that evening at the Catherine Pockenhams journalists' awards. "It was the first time I've ever wished I had a mobile telephone," he said later. "I had to bash on the door for about twenty minutes before an attendant heard me and unlocked it."

Yum yum

PRESIDENT CLINTON, a notorious trencherman and hamburger fan, was taking few chances at lunch yesterday with Tony Blair: he brought his own taster with

him from the United States. Under such circumstances, Downing Street chose not to rely on its own staff, and summoned the former head chef of the Dorchester, Annon Mostmann, from Yorkshire, where he was conducting a road show for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The meal could not have been more healthy: steamed halibut followed by summer fruits for Clinton and Blair over their working lunch.



grilled sea-bass and a pudding for Hillary and Cherie.

Gibberish comes easily to Mark Rylance, artistic director of the new Globe Theatre. His programme notes for Henry V, in which he performed yesterday for Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair, are a classic: "Imagination is my beginning and end. The words and images I find there have nothing to communicate in form, or sell. They rise or fall from an unknown source and mock all explanation. I believe without my actor's passport to that mediating Globe I would surely be mad or dead." Fortunately, the Shakespeare is more straightforward.

Star turn

THE LATEST addition to the cast of *Love is the Devil*, a British Film Institute production about the artist Francis Bacon, is Stella McCartney. Paul and Linda's seamstress daughter. In her screen debut, she will appear as an extra, along with Anita Pallenberg, star of the censored 1960s film, *Performance*. Stella will be on set for one day



McCartney: first role

as a passenger on a London Tube train, says a BFI spokesman. "She doesn't say anything, she just sits there dressed in her own designs," Miss McCartney, who was recently appointed "creative designer" at the French fashion house Chloé, has always shied away from the cameras but was persuaded to join in by the party-going director, John Maybury.



Lady Carla and Sir Isaiah: confusion at the Academy



CURSE OF MAASTRICHT

The Bundesbank declares war on EMU chicanery

Less than a week after Tony Blair's rapturous reception at Noordwijk, the political battles in France and Germany have made that outbreak of continental euphoria over Labour's election victory suddenly irrelevant. As Blair and Clinton made their almost royal progress about London yesterday, the American President unexpectedly found himself not at the centre of a European drama but well off-stage. The plot has changed overnight, thrusting Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac into the limelight before a throng of jeering, hostile groundlings.

The first act was set in France, where President Chirac will emerge seriously weakened from his electoral gamble. Whichever coalition wins this Sunday, the President has already lost. Even if the Right scrapes through, the ease with which France's dimly led Socialists have pinned the Government on the ropes has destroyed all Chirac's hopes of claiming that he has a mandate to squeeze France into trim for economic and monetary union in 1999. This French election may prove far more significant for Europe than Britain's.

Compared with the high drama of the battle between Chancellor Kohl and the Bundesbank, however, that tense first act has the makings of no more than a subplot. The Bundesbank has not only flatly opposed the rash decision of Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, to plug the hole in Germany's finances by revaluing its gold reserves and pocketing the paper profit; it has denounced it as "an attack on Bundesbank independence". By further stating that if EMU goes ahead on the basis of such accounting tricks, it will lack credibility and stability, the bank has confirmed every German's secret fears about giving up the mark.

The Chancellor defiantly insists that he will change the Bundesbank law and press ahead. He has taken on the bank and won once before, over the terms of German monetary unification. But this time, his obsession with EMU has set him on a course that could destroy both his political career and his pet project. Germany's Socialist Opposition may be weak and disorganised, but no more so than the French; this could be

the catalyst that made up the party's mind on EMU. The press is up in arms: so are economists. The Chancellor has only a narrow Bundestag majority and MPs, in their constituencies for the Corpus Christi holiday, are getting an earful from voters.

Even so, the Chancellor may believe that he has no alternative. Were he to retreat now, and raise taxes instead, he would be seen to be acting out of weakness. Voters already reluctant to pay more tax for "Europe" will be even less willing to do so to save the blushes of Herr Kohl and the unloved Herr Waigel. But even if he can quell a political revolt and the law passes, the Bundesbank has powerful weapons left if it is as serious as Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, appears to be.

The bank transfers its annual profits to Bonn after the calendar year ends; it could refuse to transfer the gains from revaluing the reserves until 1998, too late to help Germany meet the Maastricht targets. It is Herr Tietmeyer, not Herr Kohl, who has the vote in the European Monetary Institute, when it decides in January which countries qualify for EMU. Before EMU goes ahead, the German Constitutional Court must also have its say; it would be reluctant to go against a negative Bundesbank assessment.

When it is winning the battle for public opinion hands down, the bank has every interest in prolonging the war. Herr Kohl has linked gold, debt, recession and Europe in the public mind; Germans will be all the more protective of the mark and the Bundesbank, their guarantees against remembered horrors. They may judge that if their own politicians are prepared to trample on the Bundesbank for the sake of EMU, the future European Central Bank will be wide open to political attack. German doubters have been reluctant to speak out against EMU for fear of being stigmatised as anti-European; but now they can take up arms in the name of their most respected national institution. For Europe, this too long delayed confrontation is healthy. But for the hitherto surefooted Herr Kohl this may, as Anatole Kaletsky writes on page 29, be a step too far — the one that takes him over the cliff.

CANARY IN THE MINE

Chris Woodhead is central to improvement in our schools

The energy that Labour has brought to government is nowhere, apart from the Treasury, more visible than in education. From his first press conference, held within hours of taking office, David Blunkett has used every opportunity to stress the commitment of his department to raising educational achievement. The identification of failing schools, the creation of the new School Effectiveness Unit and the admonitions on teaching standards from Stephen Byers, the Minister of State, are all evidence of a welcome sense of purpose. They are also evidence of the influence on the education debate of the Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead. In defiance of vested interests within the teaching unions, Mr Woodhead has reassured the importance of traditional teaching and testing. Now, however, having embraced him, Labour appears poised to squeeze him out.

The news that Mr Woodhead has been appointed vice-chairman of a task force to disseminate good practice within state schools would, ordinarily, be entirely welcome. What renders the elevation ominous is the identity of his new colleague, Professor Tim Brighouse. Professor Brighouse is not so much Mr Woodhead's brother-in-arms as his bitter opponent. As Birmingham's Chief Education Officer, Professor Brighouse has proved himself a creature of municipal socialism rather than a promoter of professional excellence. His producer-interest instincts are apparent in his belief that failing schools should be shielded and "supported". The Government, wisely, has preferred to name them and institute a public process to effect improvements.

The manner in which Professor Brighouse's new job will formally be announced does nothing to allay concern. Mr Blunkett is to unveil the details of his new task force to the National Association of Head Teachers' Conference in Scarborough today but the substance of the announcement leaked out yesterday. The coralling of Mr Woodhead with Professor Brighouse was clearly intended to signal to the teaching unions that their concerns about Ofsted were being acknowledged. David Hart of the NAHT certainly took comfort from the news, concluding that "this is the Government's way of bringing the inspector under more direct control". The teaching unions' real hopes are easily discernible behind Mr Hart's cloud of euphemism. They believe not so much that Mr Woodhead will now work far better with the Government, rather that the Government would work far better without him.

Government sources have already argued that they want Ofsted to play a more "constructive" role. Some could see in the Government's treatment of Mr Woodhead, as in its handling of Eddie George, a process closer to constructive dismissal. If the new task force is to "evangelise" why has a proselytiser like Mr Woodhead been teamed with a Pharisee such as Professor Brighouse? Mr Blair admires the work of Ofsted under Mr Woodhead and, certainly, the mechanisms his Government has set in place could serve their avowed shared purpose of levering standards up. Other forces could, however, frustrate the work that needs to be done. Mr Woodhead is the canary in the mine. Mr Blair should ensure he is not knocked off his perch.

VANITY PUBLISHING

Books do furnish the mind as well as the beach

This is the year of the book as fashion accessory. Until now Donald Trump has been celebrated for loves other than his love of literature. But his publicist has announced, in a survey of what celebrities will be taking to the beach, that Mr Trump will be reading Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh* on his night-dub-fringed holiday. And as our New York correspondent reports on page 17, *Mason & Dixon* by Thomas Pynchon is hitting the best-seller lists hard; no Manhattan glass-top table can be without it.

Critics have called this novel "the easy Pynchon". But "easy" is a comparative word. It depends on who is doing the deconstruction. For the world's most reclusive author is a follower of the Kerouac school of "spontaneous prose". The act of reading Pynchon parallels his protagonists' acts of deciphering an encoded world. His books are anti-detective stories, in which the mystery rather than the solution is the point. When told that he was to be marooned on a desert island, but could have any book by Thomas Pynchon, the castaway might reply: that he would take *Poison*. A Pynchon novel is complex, turgid, erudite and a doorstopper to trip the unwary. Easy, it ain't.

But that is part of its attraction. It belongs to the literary genre entitled "great unreadables". All readers should make their

own lists of such books. Many will set off for the beach with Proust again this summer; but few will reach *Le temps retrouvé* and the moral that "Happiness is good for the body, but sorrow develops the powers of the spirit." Proust should have put that at the beginning. Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time* is insufficiently brief for many, who find it a bit long in the middle.

When Umberto Eco followed up *The Name of the Rose* with *Foucault's Pendulum*, a journalist posted a slip at page 410 of every copy of the stacks piled up at the semiotically-challenging book in Barnes & Noble, the three-storey Washington bookstore. It promised to send \$50 to anybody who posted the slip to the address printed on it. The journalist reported that he did not have to fork out a single \$50-dollar bill.

But the great unreadables make far better fashion accessories than scarves or ties. They are works of man's intellect as well as his vanity. Writing is the only profession in which no one considers the author ridiculous if he earns no money. To be paid and unread is better than merely to be unread. When left lying ostentatiously on the coffee table, an unreadable may attract a reader as well as admiration or envy. And some of them eventually turn into the apotheosis of the great unreadable: a literary classic.

Ex-MPs on Tory leadership battle

From Sir Jim Lester and others

Sir, We are all former Conservative Members of Parliament who lost our seats at the general election on May 1. We are all keen to return to the House of Commons or to maximise the chances of our successors doing so in our constituencies at the next election.

The current Conservative leadership contest will shape the party's image and policies over the next five years. Over the last five years, we spent far too much time as a party arguing among ourselves and far too little explaining how and why Britain's economic success depends on Conservatives being in power. It is a mistake that we need not and must not repeat in Opposition. We believe that the new leader should make the economy and everything that stems from it, not Europe, the central battleground of the Tory attack on Labour.

Some excellent candidates are available as future leaders. Of them, the man most likely to keep the economy at the forefront of debate, and make our attack on Labour stick, is without doubt Ken Clarke. He will be seen as the Chancellor who presided over an economic success story that Labour is about to ruin. We saw an early proof of his fireproof last Tuesday in a formidable onslaught on Gordon Brown in the House of Commons.

Ken Clarke is above all else a fighter, and it is a fighter — tested both in opposition and in government — that the party now needs to rebuild itself in these difficult times. Ken Clarke is at once experienced and popular. He can communicate effectively both in Parliament and the country. It is difficult to see how the party could do better than choose him, as a basis on which to decisively move on to the offensive, as a strong and united force, preparing for electoral victory.

Yours faithfully,

JIM LESTER

(MP, 1974-97)

ROBERT ATKINS

(MP, 1974-97)

PETER BUTLER

(MP, 1992-97)

TIM RATHBONE

(MP, 1974-97)

MARK ROBINSON

(MP, 1983-91, 1992-97)

MALCOLM THORNTON

(MP, 1979-97)

GARY WALLER

(MP, 1979-97)

4 Trevelose House, Orsett Street, SE11, May 28.

From Mr Christopher Jackson

Sir, Your reports (May 23) concerning the anger of the voluntary party about the decision of the 1922 Committee to select a leader by votes of the parliamentary party alone are correct.

The voluntary wing of the party — the members — has increasingly regarded the parliamentary party as undisciplined and a problem in itself. Individually, MPs are respected; collectively, much less so, and for an English rum of MPs, representing less than half the English constituencies and none of the Welsh or Scottish, to decide the leadership for years to come is unacceptable.

Members of Conservative Associations know well that they select the MPs, vote to get them elected, and substantially provide the cash to run elections and support Conservative Central Office, which has, since Disraeli, "belonged" to the Leader. Now the age of deference has passed they increasingly feel that "He who pays the piper calls the tune".

The National Union of Conservative Associations is right to demand its share of the vote, but the issue goes wider, and demands proper consideration of giving a vote also to Conservative councillors, peers, and MEPs. The new rules, finalised at the end of this year, must be symbolic of a renewed party in which participation and leadership are combined in ways not seen hitherto.

Some of the leadership candidates have wisely said that, if elected, they will re-submit themselves under the new rules. That will resolve the problem, as long as the new rules provide for a full election involving the direct votes of all sections of the Conservative Party. If they do not, the consequences could be dire, with a leader elected by MPs alone being regarded simply as leader of the parliamentary party, not Leader of the party as a whole.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER JACKSON

(Conservative MEP for Kent East, 1979-94)

8 Wellmeade Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent, May 28.

From Mr Tom Benyon

Sir, As Conservative MPs elect their leader they should bear in mind Churchill's proposition — with Antee in mind — that often the people he found the least impressive at the first meeting subsequently proved to be the most able by far. He said that the reverse also applied.

Courage, proven political ability, integrity, wit and tenacity are qualities in short supply. Luckily they are possessed in abundance by Peter Lilley.

Yours sincerely,

TOM BENYON

(Conservative MP for Abingdon, 1979-83)

PO Box 181,

Adstock, Buckingham MK18 2RN, May 21.

Sponsorship ban could 'save' sports

From Mr R.A. Philips

Sir, Most sponsors of sports (letters, May 21) put their money into high-profile events where television coverage is likely to increase the number of targets for their message. Sponsors who donate large sums of money from the goodness of their heart are few and far between.

Prior to the last Olympics, the oarsman Steven Redgrave, one of Britain's greatest ever Olympians, found it hard to get sponsorship for his amateur sport. Had rowing been a sport that received better television coverage, I am sure that both he and his club, Leander, could have been financially secure well into the next century.

Television draws the sponsors, but it is a double-edged sword. One only has to look across the Atlantic to see what over-commercialisation does to a sport. The sponsors rely on vast TV audiences, and the television companies rely on advertising revenue from commercial breaks before, during and after the coverage. The result is that sports are forced to adjust their rules and format to suit television schedules, sometimes to the detriment of the sportsmen and women.

Perhaps the proposal to ban tobacco sponsorship might save some of our sports from being ruined by the advertising industry. Rather than stop-

ping companies sponsoring sport, may I suggest that the passive advertising of tobacco be banned. It should be an offence to show on British television advertisements for tobacco products in whatever form. If the tobacco companies wish to continue to sponsor sport as a form of moral penance for the damage they do, why not let them.

Yours sincerely,
R.A. PHILIPS,
10 Broughton Avenue,
Ham, Surrey,
May 28.

From Mr Marcus Elliott

Sir, The banning of tobacco company sponsorship of sport will, I hope, have one unplanned beneficial effect. The ludicrous amount of prize money on offer, which is turning most sports into money machines, will have to be reduced, perhaps bringing a new sense of reality to what, after all, are only games.

Yours,
MARCUS H. ELLIOTT,
Pen Dinas,
Great Orme, Llandudno, Conwy,
May 21.

Sport letters, page 41

Value of Bart's hospital

From Mrs Jenny Edmonds

Sir, Mrs Wendy Mead (letter, May 26) did well to point out the misconceptions on funding which have been allowed to grow regarding the royal and ancient hospital of St Bartholomew.

It is royal because Henry VIII, in one of his wiser moments, granted it a royal charter to serve the poor of London, a maxim which has inspired the generosity of hundreds of benefactors to endow the hospital with the funds of which Mrs Mead wrote. And Bart's is still there with wards, specialised units, operating theatres and, most importantly, beds — all up and running — in the middle of London's worst hospital bed crisis for years. There is no need to spend millions of pounds on the Royal London Hospital at Whitechapel to recreate what already exists in Smithfield.

It is ancient because the sick have been treated at Smithfield since, about nine hundred years ago, monks began practising the art of healing. Bart's has continued to lead the field of medicine ever since. The very recent additions to the hospital — at a cost of millions — endorsed the continuing excellence of service that the hospital has shown over the centuries.

Because of the reputation of the hospital's medical and nursing schools, those who trained at Bart's are respected throughout the world and, as a consequence, the hospital has never had difficulty in recruiting people to work and study there.

I cannot think what future generations will say, at the end of the 20th century, such a jewel should be allowed to close.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY EDMONDS,
Old Farm, Vicarage Lane,
Laleham-on-Thames, Middlesex,
May 28.

Value of education

From Dr J.C. Lester

Sir, Dr Avner Offer argues (letter, May 26) that lower income parents often do not have the means to invest in education for the benefit of both their children and society (in other words, that education is a public good), and that this "is why education is everywhere subsidised from taxes".

This is indeed the received wisdom. However, with as much, or as little, argument one can also view this as just another example of the public good myth being used by vested interests to grab tax-exempt money, while working chiefly to their own, uncompetitive, satisfaction. As members of the public lose relatively little individually, they lack the incentive to understand and organise against such predation and shoddy services.

My point is that the benefits of tax-subsidies for education are not as obvious as Dr Offer suggests. There is a real debate to be had here.

Yours sincerely,

J.C. LESTER,

Middlesex University,

School of Philosophy,

White Hart Lane, N17,

Oxfordshire,
May 28.

Fiji and the Crown

From Mr George Moody-Stuart

Sir, Ganesh Lall's comparison of Fiji's 1990 constitution with apartheid in South Africa (letter, May 12) is totally invalid. The fact is that both before and after the coups of 1987 the relationship between the two main racial groups, the indigenous Fijians and the long-established Indian immigrants, has been enviously good.

The coups were the result of a perceived threat to the Fijian way of life which could have resulted from a government with its roots in a totally different culture. An impartial observer can surely understand this, without necessarily condoning the action which was taken. While the 1990 constitution falls short of perfect democracy, it is in no way oppressive and appears to be acceptable to the great majority of Fiji's citizens.

The Commonwealth has from time to time tolerated some very questionable regimes, presumably in the hope of bringing them to better ways. It should not hesitate to welcome the return of a loyal ex-member, whose record, except on this one very difficult constitutional matter, has been impeccable.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE MOODY-STUART

(Managing Director,

Fiji Sugar Corporation, 1977-80),

Annat,

11 Woodfield Lane, Ashted, Surrey,
May 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Courtesy in the House

From Miss Gill Mackenzie,
Honorary Secretary of the
Campaign for Courtesy

Sir, By happy coincidence your report (May 24) about Members of Parliament espousing politeness appeared on the day we were holding our AGM in Central Hall, Westminster. Among other matters, our members discussed the poor behavioural example set by many MPs in the last Parliament.

In one of his poems, William Cowper described women as "the sex whose presence civilises ours". If the presence of so many women in the new intake has this effect on their male colleagues, it augurs well for those of us promoting the benefits of courtesy in our everyday lives.

The consequent restoration of a little dignity in the House would be no bad thing either.

Yours, much encouraged,

GILL MACKENZIE,

Honorary Secretary,

The Campaign for Courtesy,

6 Norman Avenue,

Henley-on-Thames,

Oxfordshire,
May 25.

From Professor Emeritus
George Milner

Sir, On October 8, 1987, when Fiji was faced with a crisis for the second time in a few months, you published a letter in which I drew attention to a cruel dilemma for the ethnic Fijians. They were caught between their abiding loyalty to the Crown, gallantly shown in World War II and other conflicts, and their perceived duty to guard the land and the fishing grounds, the roots of their being, from alienation.

A few days later a republic was proclaimed and because of this change of status Fiji lost her membership of the Commonwealth. Yet the Union Jack is still in the place of honour on the flag, the Queen's effigy remains on both coinage and banknotes and the Queen's birthday is kept as a national holiday. The recent news that a petition has been submitted to Her Majesty, with a request for readmission to the Commonwealth, shows that this most reluctant prodigal son has never lost his deep attachment to the family.

It is greatly to be hoped that at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government conference, due to meet in Edinburgh in October, Her Majesty's Prime Minister will do his utmost to persuade his fellow leaders that on the basis of new constitutional amendments yet to be unveiled, let alone for other compelling reasons, Fiji has a strong case and should be welcomed back into the family of Commonwealth nations.

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY FULLER,

Cross Tree Cottage,

Lopen, South Petherton, Somerset,
May 23.

Helicopter crash decision to stand

From Mr Tom Pocock

Sir, The Government took the surprising decision last week to support its predecessor's decision against reopening the inquiry into the Mull of Kintyre helicopter crash of 1984, in which 29 people, including 25 senior Northern Ireland intelligence officers, were killed (letters, August 24, 1995, April 5, 1996). The verdict of "gross negligence" still applies to the two dead pilots although, as explained by Lord Chalfont in the House of Lords and Martin O'Neill, MP, in the Commons, the Royal Air Force appears to be ignoring its own rule that deceased aircrew should not be blamed for crashes without conclusive evidence.

A fatal accident inquiry under Scottish law attached no blame to the pilots and the president of the RAF board of inquiry was unable to establish the cause of the crash. However, despite this, the final decision was taken, without the production of further evidence, by two senior officers, who seemed to rely on circumstantial evidence in coming to their own harsh and uncompromising verdict. In a *Newnight* report last week, one commentator said the RAF were, in effect, suggesting that two of their most experienced pilots had carelessly flown into a mountain.

An unanswered question remains: why were those important passengers flown in an aircraft whose suitability for service had been questioned by its own pilot?

Yours faithfully,
TOM POCOCC,
22 Lawrence Street, SW3,
May 29.

Just deserts

From Mr Andrew M. Kelly

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Alan Millard (letter, May 27), when discussing whether universities have a legal duty to provide what they promise, suggests that a degree — like eternal life — has to be earned.

This is perhaps an unfortunate comparison since the Bible states unequivocally:

For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it (Ephesians 2, viii and ix, Good News version).

It therefore follows, assuming that the Bible is true, that there will be no prospect of anyone being able to sue St Peter for failure to recognise and reward good works. His task will simply be limited to identifying and welcoming the Lord's family members, whilst excluding others.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW M. KELLY,

80 Ridgeway Crescent,

Orpington, Kent,
May 27.

Dangerous wolf-dogs

From Mr Budd Berkman

Sir, I am a board member of one of the leading wolf-dog sanctuaries in America, and like your animal experts, including the RSPCA, would strongly urge your readers not to acquire a wolf-dog as a pet (report, "Wolf-dogs 'too dangerous' to be kept as pets", May 26).

Our organization exists because, unfortunately, a staggering 90 per cent of wolf-dogs in America are abandoned or put down before the age of two. People who feel they're acquiring a "super watchdog" or an exotic animal to show to friends find the novelty soon wears off as the puppy grows. They do not realize the extremely special care a wolf-dog requires, such as:

Proper containment — minimum 8ft-high fencing with the wire buried at least one foot underground

Companionship — being a "pack" animal, it must have another animal as a companion

Socialization — in a family situation they are unpredictable and they continually assert themselves to find their place in the hierarchy, which easily leads to aggressive behaviour. Remember, we're dealing with an animal with predatory instincts; perfectly normal and healthy for a wolf in the wild, potentially dangerous for a neighborhood pet.

Though extremely intelligent, wolf-dogs are almost impossible to train. They will do what they want, when they want, and should not be brought up in a domestic environment. We'd rather not have to open a sanctuary in England.

Yours faithfully,

BUDD BERKMAN,

Member, Board of Directors,

Candy Kitchen Rescue Ranch,

Ramah, New Mexico, 87321,
May 27.

Water off a duck's back

From Mr Tony Fuller

Sir, If it takes ten plastic ducks @ £1 each to provide clean water for life for an Ethiopian (report and photograph, May 27), how many ducks would it take to do the same for a British consumer?

Yours faithfully,

ANTHONY FULLER,

Beech House,

Worcester Road,

Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire,
May 27.

Journal of Management Education 30(6)

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2
TODAY

ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky
says gold may end
King Kohl's reign
PAGE 29

EDUCATION

Why teachers
in Britain
get no respect
PAGE 39

SPORT

Backley ready
to emerge
from shadows
PAGES 40-48

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46-47

BUSINESS EDITOR Patricia Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MAY 30 1997



The difference of opinion between Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, left, and Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, threatens to undermine EMU

German gold row adds to worries over EMU

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

EUROPEAN markets are facing a turbulent week as fears grow that the dispute between the Bundesbank and the German Government will undermine economic monetary union. The mark endured an uncomfortable ride on the foreign exchanges yesterday, as investors moved into "safe haven" currencies such as the dollar, pound and Swiss franc.

The dollar gained nearly two pence against the mark to hit a day high of DM1.7067, while the pound rose from DM2.790 to DM2.7905.

But the mark recovered after Theo Waigel, German Finance Minister, insisted that he would proceed with the gold revaluation plan and that the single currency would still start on time.

The mark clawed back most of its losses against the pound to close at DM2.7827, while rebounding to DM1.6993 versus the dollar.

Herr Waigel also attempted to reassure the markets that none of the profits from the revaluation would be used to reduce the German Government's budget deficit. But the financial markets remained unconvinced of the intentions of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

Julian Callow, European economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "It is unclear what the Government is doing. If it is not over-riding then why bother at all, because it will only have a limited impact on the deficit and has been a public relations disaster."

German 10-year bonds also suffered in dealings on the London International Financial Futures Exchange, although trading was thin as analysts attempted to assess the situation. But the Frankfurt stock market ignored the

row with the Dax 30 closing up 7.79 points to 3,637.77.

Ken Wattret, European economist at Paribas, said: "The markets are confused, which could cause some big swings over the next few days. But the damage has been done to the credibility of German fiscal policy, which will place pressure on German bonds and the mark."

City economists believe the German Government's determination to push forward with its revaluation plan against the wishes of Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, suggest Bonn is more concerned that the euro starts on time than it is a "hard" currency. The possible victory of the Socialists in the French election is also casting a cloud over the market with Lionel Jospin, the

EMU turmoil... Economic View... 29

Socialist leader, expected to push for the inclusion of Spain and Italy in a watered down single currency.

Analysis said the euro-turmoil was likely to cause sterling to climb higher, threatening exports. But the trade figures released yesterday, showed the global deficit declining to £671 million in March, from £771 million the previous month. The non-EU deficit in April also improved to £335 million from £550 million in March after a 16.1 per cent increase in exports.

Economists said the strong export performance in non-EU countries was helping to balance flat export growth with Europe, although the deficit is expected to widen over the next few months.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4672.3	(-6.2)
Yield	3.81%	
FTSE All share	2220.52	(-1.88)
Nikkei	20312.23	(-39.11)
Dow Jones	7325.48	(-31.77)
S&P Composite	844.21	(-3.00)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(P+%)
Long Bond	6 5/8%	(P+%)
Yield	7.01%	(7.03%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(P+%)
Life long gilt	112 1/4	(112 1/4)

STERLING

New York	1.6408	(1.6407)
London	1.6397	(1.6395)
DM	2.7820	(2.7795)
FF	9.4384	(9.3957)
SF	2.3111	(2.3186)
Yen	190.18	(189.12)
E index	99.1	(99.0)

DOLLAR

London	1.0000	(1.0005)
DM	5.7408	(5.7275)
FF	1.4118	(1.4105)
SF	115.20	(115.05)
E index	102.4	(102.5)

Tokyo close Yen 116.27

North Sea oil		
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$19.75	(\$19.40)

GOLD

London close	\$344.55	(\$344.25)
--------------	----------	------------

* denotes midday trading price

United plea

United Utilities made a plea for lenient treatment from the Labour Government yesterday, saying it is already passing privatisation benefits to customers. The combined water and electricity company unveiled muted full-year profits.

Black belts

Siebe, the engineering group, is hoping to save millions of pounds by stepping up its quality control on installations. A team of engineers, to be known as black belts, will descend at the first sign of trouble.

Tempus, page 28; Page 32

ScotAm wasted £10m on aborted flotation strategy

By CAROLINE MERRELL

SCOTTISH AMICABLE, the Stirling-based life company, wasted more than £10 million on its aborted attempts to float earlier this year.

The figure made up a large part of the £34 million that it cost for ScotAm to demutualise and ultimately to become part of the Prudential Corporation. The cost was equivalent to more than £20 for each ScotAm policyholder.

The money will pay advisers' fees and the costs of mailing 1.1 million policyholders with details of Prudential's offer. ScotAm's advisers, in-

clude SBC Warburg, the merchant bank, Freshfields, the City law firm, and Tillinghast, the consulting actuary.

The flotation plan would have involved a £400 million cash injection from Swiss Re. But the plan attracted a deluge of criticism from independent financial advisers and policyholders, who attacked the company's directors for giving themselves the opportunity of earning six-figure salaries while, at the same time, offering policyholders only a few hundred pounds for giving up ownership of the company.

Under the deal offered by Prudential, which succeeded in winning ScotAm in a three-

way bid against AMP, the Australian insurer, and Abbey National, ScotAm's with-profit policyholders will get an average of £1,400.

The new deal does not include an expensive director remuneration package. Instead, ScotAm's 11 senior executives, including Roy Nicholson, the managing director, will be retained on their existing contracts for six months. If they stay on after that they will be paid a bonus of three months' salary.

If the Prudential deal is accepted by ScotAm's policyholders the £4 billion with-profit fund will be closed. The money from new policies sold

by ScotAm will be invested through Prudential Portfolio Managers (PPM), leaving a question mark over the future of Scottish Amicable Investment Management (SAIM).

As well as managing ScotAm's money, SAIM, which employs 150 staff, is also responsible for managing £9 billion on behalf of other institutions.

Prudential's offer will be put to ScotAm's policyholders at a special general meeting on June 27. If agreed, the deal should be completed in September.

The £1,400 windfall will be paid to ScotAm policyholders in a mixture of cash and

additional policy bonuses. All qualifying policyholders will get £250 in cash. Even those who took out policies as late as May 28 will get the £250.

Some policyholders will also get a variable amount of cash based on the type of policy and the time it has been in force. The additional bonuses include an average of £427 to be added to each policy immediately, in addition to an average of £481 to be included when each policy matures. The amounts actually added will depend again on the length of time that the policy has been in force.

Commentary, page 27

Heron in £100m City development

By CARL MOKERISHED

HERON International, the property group run by Gerald Ronson, revived memories of the office property boom of the late Eighties with the launch yesterday of a £100 million speculative office development programme in the City of London.

Heron has agreed to buy a long leasehold interest in a former bomb-site around the new Thameslink station at Ludgate Circus. The vendor, the City Corporation, has granted permission for Heron to build a five-storey, 700,000 sq ft office block. Heron has also obtained planning consent to build a new 90,000 sq ft office building near by at 11/13 Holborn Viaduct.

Heron has yet to find ten-

ants for both buildings, which are expected to have a combined end value of £100 million and will be completed in the autumn of 1999. Mr Ronson, who spent six months in prison after his role in the Guinness financial scandal, said that the two developments reflected the company's long-term confidence in City property. "We are beginning to see increasing demand for prime quality office accommodation," he said.

The Heron developments will compete with other major projects, such as MEPC's Peterhill development near St Paul's, the redevelopment of the old Daily Express offices in Fleet Street and the Daily Mirror site at Fetter Lane.

Seagram sale fuels talk of merger

SPECUATION that Seagram is planning a merger with Allied Domecq, the British pubs and drinks group, intensified yesterday after the Canadian spirits and entertainment group boosted its reserves by \$1.4 billion Eric Reguly writes.

Seagram raised the money by selling 30 million shares of Time Warner, the media group, to Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street broker. The company retains another 26.8 million Time Warner shares.

Analysts think Seagram is preparing to expand in the spirits business and is trying to strike a deal with Allied. The City expects a wave of consolidations in the wake of the proposed £24 billion merger of Guinness and GrandMet.

Tinseltown gloom, page 29

Bae grounds Jetstream with loss of 380 jobs

By MARTIN WALLER

THE last whole aircraft to be produced in Scotland will roll out of British Aerospace's factory in Prestwick, Ayrshire, by the end of the year, when the company plans to cease production of the Jetstream 41 turboprop at a cost of 380 jobs.

More than 1,000 workers remain at the site producing aircraft parts such as the wings of Bae's Avro Regional Jet. The company hopes to find fresh work for Prestwick in the form of contributions to other craft, such as the Nimrod 2000 maritime patrol craft.

"There are never guarantees these days, but there is the intention to keep Prestwick going," said a spokesman.

"We see Prestwick continuing to do aerospace business, and we intend to put as much work into there as possible."

While there was dejection among the workforce, the City put 26p onto the shares, which closed at 112.51p. The company is taking a £250 million charge against figures for the first half of 1997, when these are produced in September, after an £80 million tax credit, to pay for the end of production and the associated reorganisation.

The actual cash cost of this will be £220 million, £120 million to be spent by the end of next year. The company reckons to have lost about £1 million for every one of the 30-seater passenger craft pro-

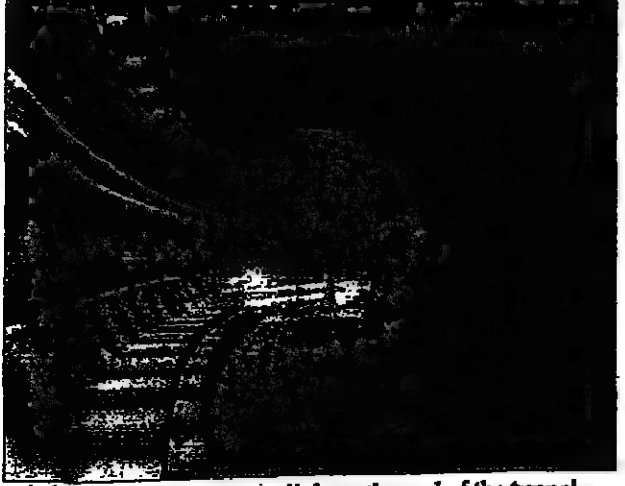
duced in recent years, and says profits last year of £425 million before tax would have been £40 million higher had production ended in 1995.

Prestwick opened in 1935, spending much of the war years modifying imported US craft for service. The first craft produced were the postwar Pioneer and Twin Pioneer ranges for the RAF, and the facility has also built the Bulldog two-seater trainer used by the RAF.

The factory is the last one in Scotland making whole aircraft. The Jetstream line was first made by Scottish Aviation, Prestwick's former owner, in the early 1970s. The latest, the J41, started production four years ago.

Eurotunnel says dividends to be paid from 2006

By OLIVER AUGUST



Dividend news is like a light at the end of the tunnel

EUROTUNNEL is expecting to pay dividends from 2006 onwards as part of its £4.4 billion financial restructuring plan which was finally published yesterday.

The scheme has been approved by Eurotunnel's leading bankers, but goes before shareholders in July with two large groups of French investors saying they will oppose the restructuring.

The debt-ridden Channel Tunnel operator is forecasting that it will actually make a profit by 2005, helped by price increases on Le Shuttle, its freight service.

Patrick Ponsolle, the joint executive chairman, said: "Our customers tell us we provide a premium service, and a premium service deserves a premium price."

The Anglo-French company said it will reverse the tide in the price war with Channel ferries, which tried to undercut Le Shuttle in 1996 to retain market share. Bill

Dix, the managing director of Le Shuttle, said he had studied the ferry companies' cost structure and is convinced that they cannot maintain current levels. He said: "Our aspirations to win market share are still quite significant."

Earnings will be boosted further by an expected drop in operational expenditure as the result of a cost-cutting exercise. Overall the group expects revenue to grow about 35 per cent over the next three years. In 1997, the company expects to make a net loss of Fr2.7 billion, compared with Fr6 billion last year.

Earnings from Le Shuttle will more than double during this period, but only after dropping slightly in 1997 because of the shutdown after last year's fire. The first lorries involved in customer trials rolled on to freight shuttles at Folkestone and Calais on Wednesday. The restruc-

turing package has to be approved by shareholders at a meeting on July 10 in Paris and by creditors in the autumn. M Ponsolle said the company faced bankruptcy if the package was rejected. He said: "This plan is not perfect, but it is, nevertheless, the best possible one in the circumstances. It is the only solution possible."

At the much-criticised 1994 share issue, the company had forecast that dividend payments would begin in 2003. M Ponsolle emphasised that the new forecast of 2006 was an "upper case scenario". In the "lower case scenario" dividend payments may not begin until 2010.

At the end of the restructuring, original shareholders are expected to be left with a slim majority of the shares.

Commentary, page 27

PINK
Thomas Pink, Jermyn Street
LONDON

SHIRTS
Thomas Pink

"The place to buy shirts in London today is Thomas Pink" THE TIMES

"Beautifully made" THE TELEGRAPH

"Exceptional value" FINANCIAL TIMES

Summer '97 Catalogue

OUT NOW

For a FREE COPY send the coupon or telephone

0171-498 3882

PINK

Send to: Thomas Pink, FREEPOST LON 350,
85 Jermyn Street, PO Box 7786, London SW1Y 6BR

Name:

Address:

Postcode

☐ Please tick, if you do not want to receive selected mailings

T02

United Utilities puts case for low windfall tax

BY ADAM JONES

UNITED UTILITIES made a plea for lenient treatment from the new Labour Government yesterday, saying it is already passing privatisation benefits to customers.

Unveiling muted full-year profits, the combined water and electricity company said £64 million had been returned so far. Customers of its North West Water subsidiary are receiving a rebate of £10 for 1997-98, an increase of 54 per cent on last year.

United has written to Labour to oppose its proposed windfall tax, but has received no reply. Yesterday, Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, who was dubbed "king of the fat cats" by Labour before the election, said: "We do not believe that any such windfall

has occurred." He hoped attempts to return cash to customers, marketed as "progress with responsibility", would soften any levy.

United announced pre-tax profits of £444 million (£340 million) before exceptional items, below market expectations. An £83 million charge from a problematic sewage works contract in Bangkok was expected. Turnover rose 29 per cent to £2.38 billion.

The company was formed after North West Water bought Norweb, the regional electricity company, in 1995. It said yesterday that predicted integration savings of £474 million by the year 2000 should be achieved.

Overall water leakage was down from 33.5 per cent to

30.6 per cent. An average of about 700 million litres were lost through leaks per day in 1996-97. The company said a hosepipe ban was unlikely this summer.

A final dividend of 25.2p (19.5p) is due to be paid on October 1, making a total of 37.2p (32.0p) for the year. The shares closed down 3p at 700p.

South West Water yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £133 million, up 21.5 per cent. A £15 rebate was paid to customers in March at a cost of £10 million.

Non-regulated businesses, one of the most desired growth areas for utilities in the light of windfall tax expectations, contributed profit before tax of £8.6 million, an increase from £5.1 million.

□ South West issued a warning that rainfall levels were dangerously low in parts of Cornwall, although fewer leaks and manageable customer demand should make restrictions unlikely. A final dividend of 24.9p (20.7p) is due on October 1, making a total of 36.7p (30.5p) for the year.

□ Mid-Kent Holdings announced a 12 per cent increase in full-year, pre-tax profits to £13.8 million yesterday. A final dividend of 18p (17.75p) is due on July 30, making a total of 30p (24p) for the year. The shares rose 10p to 580p.

Distributors feel heat

THE electricity industry watchdog has turned the heat up on the local distribution companies by threatening them with financial penalties if they fail to meet next spring's deadline for a fully competitive market (Martin Walker writes).

Stephen Littlechild said three of the 14 companies should be ready by the April

target. Almost all would be ready by July, except possibly Southern Electric.

Penalties would be applied to reduce any temptation to enter the market late, which could involve a clawback of the amounts companies have been allowed to add to power bills to pay for the work needed to bring in competition.



Ian Harvey and Rusi Kathoke with a plant being used to test BTG's new pesticide

BTG banks on Torotrak

BY PAUL DURMAN

BTG, the company that commercialises new inventions, is investing another £12.5 million in Torotrak, its innovative transmission technology.

Torotrak's infinitely variable transmission system, which offers fuel-saving benefits, is under test with some of the world's leading carmakers, including Ford and Toyota. BTG has said Torotrak could easily be worth £50 million a year if adopted.

BTG intends to spend the £12.5 million developing

Torotrak further, improving its durability, cost, size and weight. The company believes that the first vehicles equipped with Torotrak, probably tractors, could be launched next year.

The Torotrak investment is part of £25 million that the company is raising by placing shares with institutional investors at 603p. Ian Harvey, chief executive, has sold £814,050 of shares, and Rusi Kathoke, the finance director, has sold £338,000 worth. Mr Kathoke said that most of

these shares were being sold to meet PAYE tax liabilities.

Mr Kathoke said that BTG wanted the other £12.5 million it was raising because it still had "far more opportunities than resources". BTG shares continued their rise, adding 35p to reach 657½p.

The company reported unchanged losses of £2.7 million on increased revenue of £22.5 million. It will pay an increased dividend of 0.88p a share on August 8.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SFA fines broker £65,000 for laxness

THE Securities and Futures Authority has fined Quilter & Co, the stockbroking subsidiary of Commercial Union, £65,000 plus £20,000 costs for laxness. The regulator identified "internal control and compliance failings within the firm's dividends department" between February 1992 and December 1995. They included failure to reconcile dividend ledgers on a timely basis, failure to adequately segregate duties and failure to ensure independent checking of work. SFA also found inadequate compliance procedures within the back office and dividends department.

Imro, the investment management regulator, has fined Canada Life Management (UK) £50,000, plus costs of £23,392, for rule breaches between March 1995 and May 1996. It found that the manager had failed to invest pension trust customers' money on time, had incorrectly priced seven-unit trusts, did not bank client money on time and failed to have adequate compliance arrangements.

Sector challenge grants

THE Government yesterday signalled a new deal with industrial trade associations as it awarded £36 million in grants to 186 new projects aimed at improving the UK's competitiveness. Under the sector challenge scheme, the Government will contribute to projects aimed at fostering new business and equipping people with better skills. Though the scheme was established by the previous government, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said that "many of these projects" aims are in line with the vision of the priorities for business.

Rentokil stake split

SOPHUS BERENDSEN, the Danish group that holds a large stake in Rentokil Initial, is to emerge. Two new, separate companies will emerge, Sophus Berendsen and Ratin. The new Sophus Berendsen will hold 10 per cent of Rentokil Initial and Ratin will hold 32.2 per cent of Rentokil. The five-year standstill on selling Rentokil shares, announced on March 11 last year, will remain in place after the Danish demerger. Rentokil shares rose 3½p to 235½p.

Air inquiry 'progress'

KAREL VAN MIKKE, the European Competition Commissioner, said that the environment was now more positive for resolving the European Commission's inquiry into an alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. He said that the situation had improved since Labour took power and since a meeting with Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade. He added that the Government now realised that competition issues over the alliance must be considered at the European Union and national level.

Textile jobs at risk

MORE THAN 150 jobs are under threat after Towles, a family-owned textile company, went into administrative receivership. Towles, of Loughborough, Leicestershire, is now in the hands of Robson Rhodes, the accountant, and has been put up for sale. The company was founded in 1906, but it has changed hands twice since the early 1990s after running into financial difficulties. A spokesman blamed competition from imports and tight retail profit margins for the problems. There are still hopes the jobs will be saved.

Nike issues warning

NIKE stock plunged 14 per cent after the company said that its fourth-quarter revenue and income would be below Wall Street expectations. Shares of Nike fell \$8.875 to \$54.75 in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange. The collapse came after the athletic footwear and apparel company said that it expected earnings per share for the three months ending May 31 of between 51 and 56 cents, well below analysts' consensus of 69 cents.

Mitsubishi Motors fall

MITSUBISHI MOTORS slided to lower profits in the past year, hit by poor sales across the globe, as leading Japanese rivals raced ahead on new models and a weaker yen. Japan's fourth-biggest carmaker announced a group operating profit down 36.5 per cent to 457 billion yen (£240 million) in the year to March 31. Group net profit fell 8.9 per cent to 11.6 billion yen. Parent company operating profit also dropped 8.4 per cent to 57.2 billion yen.

Hain plans 'industrial villages'

BY PHILLIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government will today launch a new business initiative aimed at boosting investment in one of the UK's oldest industrial regions.

The initiative in South Wales comes as an announcement is expected, also today, of hundreds of new automotive jobs in Wales.

Peter Hain, the Welsh Office Minister, will today launch a government strategy aimed at locating investment in the valleys of South Wales — the old pit areas that have seen high levels of unemployment since the demise of the coal industry.

Mr Hain will announce the development of "industrial villages" in the valleys — clusters of mainly high-tech supplier companies that would become sourcing centres for investment along the M4 corridor in South Wales.

Industrial villages were first promoted by Mr Hain as a backbench MP, but the idea has been given fresh impetus with the decision by LG, the Korean electronics manufacturer, to invest £1.7 billion in a new semiconductor plant in Newport. The plant will create 6,100 jobs directly and will be Europe's largest inward investment.

Air France lands back into profit

AIR FRANCE, the French state-owned airline, yesterday announced a return to profit for the first time in eight years despite continued industrial unrest (Adam Sage writes).

Patrice Durand, managing director, said the heavily subsidised carrier had reported a net consolidated profit of Fr394 million in the year to March 31 against last year's loss of Fr2,264 billion.

The result will comfort Christian Blanc, made chairman four years ago, and add weight to his claim that the airline should be privatised swiftly if the ruling centre-right parties win this Sunday's parliamentary election.

ASIA-CALL

India	42p
Pakistan	68p
Bangladesh	72p

Rates apply 24 hours a day. 100% of other countries available. Extra discounts for Regular and Business Users.
Phone Free on 0800 279 1500
Distributors urgently required

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.24	2.08	Netherlands Gld	3.913	3.038
Austria Sch	20.25	19.55	New Zealand \$	2.53	2.30
Belgium Fr	90.48	85.84	Norway Kr	12.17	11.29
Canada C\$	0.708	0.680	Portugal Esc	203.50	173.00
Cyprus Cyp£	0.870	0.803	Spain Ptas	166.31	158.00
Denmark Kr	11.15	10.32	Sweden Kr	946.00	826.50
Finland Mk\$	6.21	5.81	Switzerland Fr	13.28	12.35
France Fr	9.83	9.11	Taiwan NT\$	2.45	2.25
Germany DM	2.23	2.11	Turkey Lira	239700	221240
Greece Dr	34	27	USA \$	1.737	1.603
Hong Kong \$	13.42	12.23			
Ireland P£	1.07	1.02			
Israel Shk	1.13	1.05			
Italy Lire	588	523			
Japan Yen	204.40	187.80			
Malta	0.653	0.602			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

RAO Gazprom 1996 Annual Results

Notification of the annual meeting of the shareholders

The Management Committee of RAO Gazprom announces that the annual shareholders meeting will be held on 28 June 1997 in the Headquarters RAO Gazprom in Moscow.

Agenda of the meeting:

- Approval of the membership of the Commission for Vote Counting.
- Approval of the Annual Report on the consolidated statements performance of the Company in 1996, balance sheet, profit and loss account, report on distribution of profits and losses.
- Approval of the audit report on the financial results of the Company in 1996.
- Approval of the report on the results of the Company's operation in 1996 made up by the Revision Commission.
- Approval of the amount of dividends to be paid on one ordinary share based on the Company's financial results in 1996, and the order of their payment.
- Approval of the amount of remuneration and compensation to the members of the Management Committee, who do not belong to the Revision Commission, as well as to the members of the Revision Commission. Approval of the remuneration of the auditors.
- Election of the members of the Management Committee of the Company.
- Election of the members of the Revision Commission of the Company.
- Introduction of changes into the Charter of the Company.

The materials, which are presented to the ADS holders in the course of preparation for the meeting, are available as of 7 June 1997 in Gavrii Andronov & Company, London office (New Liverpool House 15-17 Eldon Street London EC2M 7LA, telephone 0171-457-2345, fax 0171-457-2330).

The charge card that gets you there faster.

The British Airways Diners Club Card is designed specifically for frequent flying business travellers. It offers the richest Air Miles awards scheme of any charge card in the UK.

- Earn 1 Air Miles award for every £5 spent with British Airways and for every £10 spent on other purchases
- 100 bonus Air Miles awards when you join
- A charge card designed specifically for business travel with no pre-set spending limit
- Automatic membership of the British Airways Executive Club
- Use of Diners Club business and airport lounges worldwide in addition to the British Airways Executive Club lounges available if you are a Silver or Gold Executive Club member

So the sooner you apply for the British Airways Diners Club Card, the sooner you can start earning Air Miles awards - faster.

Annual fee and certain exclusions apply.

To receive full details and to apply for the Card CALL US FREE ON

0800 00 00 10

Quoting Ref 3608/B

Executive Club
BRITISH AIRWAYS

For complete and return this coupon to: Diners Club International, FREEPOST UH1503, Thame, Oxon OX9 2ZY

NAME _____ British Airways Executive Club Number (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel No _____

300 bonus Air Miles awards

AIR MILES and the Flying Blue logo are trademarks of AIR MILES International Holdings N.V. AIR MILES awards are held and issued for use subject to AIR MILES Customer Terms and Conditions. Registered mark of Diners Club International, New York. Diners Club Europe is a division and trading unit of Diners Club International Plc. Registered in England No. 1088219.

Better late than never



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Patrick Ponsolle, the joint chairman of Eurotunnel, did the impossible yesterday. He didn't make the company seem a viable prospect — that would have taken a miracle of biblical proportions — but he managed to make people nostalgic for Sir Alastair Morton. While Sir Alastair made some pretty extreme statements during his near decade at the helm of the black hole of Folkestone, nothing can compare to M. Ponsolle's assertion that the British and French governments had a duty to extend Eurotunnel's franchise for an extra 34 years because they are responsible for the mess the company is in.

M. Ponsolle is rewriting history. When Eurotunnel was awarded the franchise a dozen years ago, it took on the project with its eyes wide open. This was the sort of deal that share risk between the public and private sector which the Labour Government is hoping to promote with the new improved Private Finance Initiative. Earlier this week it emerged that Andersen Consulting was willing to take a £23 million hit because a PFI project was going to be delivered late. What is good for Andersen should be good for Eurotunnel. It is merely that the figures are bigger.

This is a project that has soaked up more than £12 billion of cash, was late being completed, even later opening and, when it did open, it had to be closed because of

a fire in the supposedly safe open carriages carrying freight. Yet, since it opened it has been such a commercial success that it is now talking about raising prices for its freight service, Le Shuttle, because it is not afraid of competition from the ferry companies, which are huddling together for safety. Had this project been managed properly in the first place, it would have been fine.

The fact that M. Ponsolle is saying these things implies he actually believes them — something one was not always sure of with Sir Alastair, who appeared to utter comments to see how much of a stir he could make. In France, M. Ponsolle is playing to the gallery. There are hundreds of thousands of small shareholders who have *perdu leur chemises* on Eurotunnel and who will vote in next weekend's election. The French Government is willing to bend to pressure. It is not only willing to extend the franchise but is pressurising the British Government to follow suit. But John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is made of stronger stuff. He is willing to attack Railtrack and, with Margaret Beckett, lay waste the plans of National

Express. Why should he roll over and play dead with Eurotunnel. As was shown by yesterday's figures, extending the licence has value — about £15 million a year according to Eurotunnel's calculations — or £510 million in total. Why should this be given up for free? If Eurotunnel wants the licence extension it should pay for it. So this will put back the company's plans of getting into profit by 2006 — it is a lot cheaper than going bust.

Note of caution needed by Brown

There was an uneasy political silence on this side of the Channel yesterday as the rest of Europe attempted to come to terms with the latest bout of euro worries. While the Italian Government was relishing pay-back time for the years of German criticism it has endured over its own budgetary wheezes,

Gordon Brown was conspicuous only by his absence. The only comment of note came from Kenneth Clarke, the erstwhile Chancellor, who seized the opportunity to try and persuade the Tory Party that even he is not as europhile as the Germans.

But the unfolding battle in Germany creates a huge policy dilemma for Mr. Brown. The City's only firm conclusion yesterday was that European markets are in for a period of uncertainty and volatility.

This looks set to last, with more crises in the offing, until the politicians resolve whether Europe will have a "soft" single currency on time in 1999 or whether the whole project should be delayed as Mr. Brown's new friend Martin Taylor continues to argue.

Britain, as a relative beacon of stability, will become even more attractive to investors for as long as it is likely that the country will remain aloof from the early

stages of the single currency. The stock market should enjoy a further rally as funds flow in from abroad. More importantly, sterling will soon be heading higher again, against the express wishes of Mr. Brown and the business lobby.

But as yesterday's trade figures showed, the export outlook is not as black as some manufacturing businesses have recently complained. Almost all of the pound's recent rise has been against European currencies and exporters have lost little competitiveness in the rest of the world, making big gains in areas tied to the equally strong dollar. This puts a lot of the bleating by exporters into sharp focus. The Japanese economy was able to thrive for a long time despite a strong yen.

It would be an uncomfortable ride sitting outside a soft euro trading block with the appreciating pound hurting European exports — although less economi-

cally painful than rushing into a fudged currency. Mr. Brown might be tempted into the euro by the elusive goal of a weaker currency. But if the Government really wants to resolve its single currency policy dilemma, it should ignore those siren cries and perhaps use some of its new found Euro-credibility to push for a postponement.

A deal too expensive

Well it was not as if Scottish Amicable had not been warned. Anybody could tell that the plan to float the life company was not going to fly. The decision to plough on even when the bidders started declaring their hand was shouting against the storm. Now it has emerged that £10 million went into the pockets of City advisers for this insane exercise.

But how could ScotAm have spent this much? And for that matter how can the whole exercise of delivering the business into the hands of the Pru be costing £34 million. And while we're on the subject how about the £91 million spend on the marriage of Royal Insurance and

Sun Alliance. And heaven knows what it will cost to merge Guinness and GrandMet.

Let's just think about the £34 million. Given that your average City adviser does not get out of bed for less than £300 an hour, this equates to 110,000 man hours of work. Assuming a 12-hour day, six days a week (these folk work hard), this would mean that an average of 127 top city advisers were constantly working for three months to put this deal together. Given that around 40 people from SBC Warburg attended the signing of the deal, these figures do not seem all that far fetched.

The level of City fees on these deals is clearly getting out of hand. The Office of Fair Trading has already acted to cut down the cost of underwriting share issues in the market. It probably has no remit here, but someone should cut down this City fat catery.

Jobs for the boys

THE Government has come up with a catchy line for its plans to rejuvenate the Welsh valleys. There are to be "industrial villages" to provide employment. This sounds so much more attractive than industrial estates. Might the climate now move in favour of the residential equivalent? Early in the Thatcher years, "New villages" were mooted as the answer to the need for new housing, but developers failed to persuade the planners of their good intentions.

LIG lifts profits by 36%

London International Group, the Dorex condoms and Marigold rubber gloves group, is aiming to maintain earnings growth of more than 10 per cent a year after completing its three-year recovery programme.

Shares in London International rose 13p, to 169½p, as it reported underlying pre-tax profits up 36 per cent to £35.6 million, in the year to March 31. Nick Hodges, chief executive, said the company had restored the profitability it enjoyed before heavy losses on its photo-processing business.

The results were hit by the £10.4 million cost of reorganising Alsdan, its US condom and gloves business. This was offset by a £4.3 million profit on disposals, leaving pre-tax profits at £29.5 million. The company is paying a final dividend of 2½p on August 22, making a 28p total, up by 40 per cent.

SIB campaign

The Securities and Investments Board, launched a £400,000 advertising campaign in the English and Scottish national press in a bid to persuade more victims of the pensions mis-selling scandal, to come forward. Only two out of five people contacted by firms that sold them personal pensions are responding, it says.

The campaign is part of the SIB's latest effort to clear up the long-running scandal. Three years after the start of the scandal was revealed only 12,650 of the 500,000 victims have accepted compensation. This month regulators set new deadlines for agreeing compensation.

Red chip rush

Beijing Enterprises, China's latest red chip stock, trebled in price on its first day of trade on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange yesterday. The shares, issued at HK\$12.48, touched HK\$45 before closing at HK\$40.20. The red chip conglomerate, controlled by Beijing's municipal government, launched an initial 150 million-share global offering last week, amid a stampede for China-linked stocks ahead of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule on July 1.

M&G shares fall as interims disappoint City

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in M&G Group tumbled 60p to £12.82½ yesterday as the unit trust and personal equity plan manager disappointed the City with interim pre-tax profits of £33.2 million. Although this was a 6 per cent rise on the first half of the previous year, it was below expectations, as was the £16.1 billion total of funds under management. M&G, a big believer in steadily rising dividend payments, also declared an unchanged interim dividend of 16p a share, due on July 17. Michael McIntock, who became managing director this year, said that this did not imply any decision about the final dividend.

M&G struggled to attract new money during the recent Peps season because of widespread criticism of the poor investment performance of its UK equity unit trusts. David Watson, finance director, said M&G captured a market share of only 2.3 per cent, instead of the 8-11 per cent it has achieved in the past. Lower sales of £312 million and significantly higher redemptions of £455 million left M&G with a net outflow from unit and investment trusts. Mr. McIntock said the redemption figure was inflated by the loss of £90 million that followed an internal takeover of the M&G Dual investment trust.



McIntock: new funds

Under Vivian Bazalgette, appointed as head of investment last year, M&G is modifying its traditional approach to investment. As a value investor, M&G has invested

heavily in companies on relatively high dividend yields and in smaller companies. Both categories have been poor performers recently.

Although sticking with its value philosophy, Mr. McIntock wants to rationalise the existing range of 14 UK funds and to add some new funds. By making these changes, he hopes in future to avoid all M&G's funds performing badly at the same stage of the investment cycle, as happened recently. M&G's performance for its pension fund clients has been much better, because it has invested more money abroad, in fixed-interest stocks, and in large companies.

M&G said it expects to spend £5 million making sure its computers can deal with the year 2000 problem. Mr. McIntock said: "We think it's going to be a bigger deal than people say. It's going to be a big issue in the markets." The millennium is one reason why Mr. McIntock is cautious on the outlook for the UK stock market.

Mr. Watson said there was a severe shortage of computer programmers who can deal with the code used by older mainframe computers. He said there was a nine-month wait to join the necessary training courses.

Tempos, page 28

Tring chief fights bid to oust board

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

PHILIP ROBINSON, chief executive of Tring International, will meet shareholders over the next few days to try to persuade them to vote down an attempt by a fellow founder and former school friend to oust him and the board.

Mark Frey, who ran the discount music company with Mr. Robinson until forced out two years ago, has teamed up with Jay Chernow, a major shareholder.

The two, who control 20 per cent of the company, have requisitioned an extraordinary meeting for June 16 at which shareholders will vote

on whether the current board should resign.

Results announced yesterday show that pre-tax profit in the year to March 31 was £500,000 compared with £3 million a year ago. Mr. Robinson said the figures were "extremely disappointing" but that the move upmarket should improve margins.

Turnover was down 34 per cent to £18.8 million. The company will not pay a dividend.

All but one of the legal disputes which have plagued Tring over recent years have now been settled.

TLG to end German production

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

TLG, the former Thorn Lighting Group, is to end manufacturing in Germany because of the high cost of labour.

The company is planning to close its one German factory and has made an exceptional provision of £13.5 million to cover the cost. That factory's production of fluorescent lighting will be shifted to the UK, France and Sweden.

The provision contributed to a £20 million drop in pre-tax profit to £3.6 million in the year to March 31. The company plans to cut 350 jobs over the next year, most of them in Germany, taking its workforce to just below 4,000. It cut 200 jobs last year.

TLG is beginning to implement the job cuts. The company expects the rationalisation to give an annual saving of £4 million in 1998-99 and £5 million on completion in 1999-2000. Wassall, the mini-conglomerate, now owns about 5.6 per cent of TLG and speculation is mounting that it is planning a bid. Hamish Bryce, executive chairman of TLG, said yesterday that he had not spoken to Wassall for several months. "We don't see the necessity for a bid," he said.

Mr. Bryce said that the strong pound had knocked £1 million off profits during the year. A final dividend of 2.9p is maintained, payable on August 12, giving an unchanged total of 4.3p.

Thomas Potts buys Coalite for £24.3m

THOMAS POTTS, the silk-screen printing company, changed its business strategy yesterday with the £24.3 million purchase of Coalite Products, a maker of smokeless fuel and chemicals (Eric Reguly writes).

The acquisition is to be funded through the placing and open offer of 540 million shares at 5p each, raising £27 million, after which Thomas Potts will change its name to Coalite. The shares will have a full listing on the London Stock Exchange.

Coalite, which has been owned by Anglo United since 1989, reported a pre-tax operating profit of £7 million on turnover of £59.4 million in the 11 months to February 28.

Berisford shows signs of recovery

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Berisford rose 8p to 133p yesterday after the Magnet kitchens group at last showed signs of recovery. Pre-tax profits rose from £11.9 million to £38.9 million in the six months to March 29.

Berisford shares suffered last year after the company said that it was in talks with a potential bidder and then revealed within days that the bidder had gone away.

Berisford said that its Darlington factory, which suffered from an industrial dispute in September 1996, had continued to recover rapidly.

Sales at the Welbilt operation in America rose 11 per cent to £241.6 million. Operating profit at Welbilt before restructuring costs increased 6 per cent to \$29.6 million.

John Slater, the chairman, said: "We are pleased with the profitable progress made by both Welbilt and Magnet in the first half and are encouraged by the first eight weeks' trading of our second-half, which shows sales at Welbilt and Magnet up 10 per cent and 6 per cent respectively over the same period last year."

He added that the company was investigating a number of acquisition and co-operation opportunities.

The half-year dividend rose 33 per cent to 2.0p out of earnings up 12.5 per cent to 7.2p. Magnet raised sales 11 per cent to £112 million, out of which operating profits increased 52 per cent to £3.5 million.

Wakebourne bought by Emerson

FRANK EMERSON, who has been involved with Wakebourne in various incarnations for 15 years, is buying the computer services business from the company's administrator for a figure believed to be little more than £1 million (Jason Nisbet writes).

This is less than a quarter of the amount he had indicated he would offer last week, before the group collapsed with debts of £10 million.

Mr. Emerson is being backed by BSC, a private investment fund that was also behind a previous bid approach.

However, the administrator said that it understood no firm offer was put on the table.

Siebe is on track for continued growth.



Preliminary results for the year ended April 5 1997	1997	1996	Change
Turnover (£m)	3,005.3	2,599.1	up 15.6%
Pre-tax Profit (£m)	424.1	331.1	up 28.1%
Earnings per Share (pence)	54.1	45.0	up 20.2%
Dividend per Share (pence)	14.70	13.31	up 10.4%
Control Systems Temperature & Appliance Controls Industrial Equipment			

"Our high hopes for 1996/97 have been fully confirmed by these results. During the year we have strengthened our competitive position in all key markets and we are now even better placed from strategic and operating points of view. The second half of the year just ended witnessed accelerating organic sales growth coupled with increased profits and margins. Order backlog at the year end stood at £883.3 million which is 23.4% up on 1996 and this has given Siebe a very good start for the new year."

Although currencies remain a concern, the Group is able to manage the situation by flexing production volumes between countries. We do not see any signs of a recession in our main markets — indeed North America, the Far East and Middle Eastern markets remain strong and we continue to see some signs of growth in Continental Europe. The Board is therefore very confident of continuing the underlying growth in Siebe's business operations."

Barrie Stephens, Chairman

SIEBE THE ENGINEER. HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.
Siebe plc, Savon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN, England. Tel. 01753 855411.

THE FINANCIAL MARKETS

SHARES TO MORTGAGES

BT Access to the Net £4.70

SHARE INFORMATION

Call Freedom 0800 800 001

BT Internet

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Kohl humbled by the Curse of Maastricht

Germany's gold war could be the undoing of the Chancellor and his single currency vision

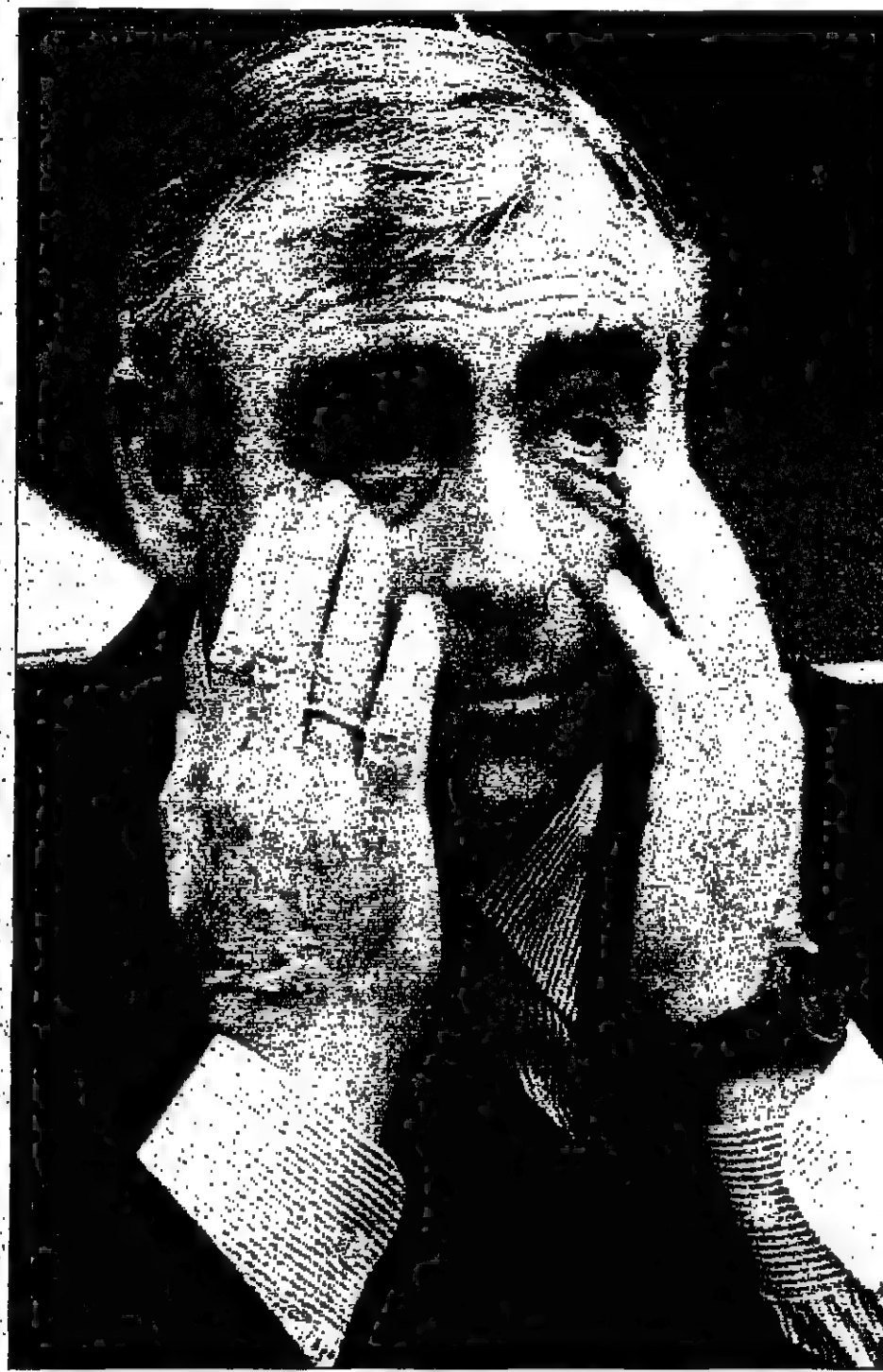
In this season of political miracles in Europe, the sudden outbreak of war between the German Government and the Bundesbank is even more astonishing and important than President Chirac's electoral miscalculation in France. With Helmut Kohl facing his political *Götterdämmerung* and the French electorate repudiating the austerity demanded by the Maastricht treaty, the prospect of a European single currency has suddenly been reduced from near-certainty to little more than an outside chance.

A month ago I said on this page that Chirac's bolt from the blue was one of those events that necessitate a sudden reassessment of some of the basic assumptions that markets and politicians had been making about the future of the world. I argued that President Chirac's impetuosity suddenly reduced the chances of Europe having a single currency from almost 100 per cent to something like 60 per cent. This judgment was broadly vindicated by the French Government's humiliation last Sunday and I was waiting for the final results of the French election this week when an even bigger bombshell exploded at the very centre of the Maastricht nexus in Frankfurt.

The declaration of war over gold between Chancellor Kohl and his previously loyal lieutenant Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, leaves the Chancellor fighting for his political life. And in spite of the German Chancellor's impressive record of winning against the odds in past political tussles, his chances of surviving in this battle now look extremely slim — certainly much slimmer than the financial markets and most political commentators have assumed in their first dazed reactions to this week's astonishing events. And if Kohl is destroyed by the Curse of Maastricht, which has already claimed the careers of almost every politician it has touched, it follows inevitably that the whole jerry-built structure of European Monetary Union will come crashing down — like Valhalla in the last act of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*.

The enormity of this destruction — the possibility that ten years of diplomacy, sacrifice and propaganda would go to waste, that governments would have fallen like ninepins for no reason, that millions of people would have lost their jobs to no purpose — all this is so astounding that the natural reaction is initially one of paralysed denial. This is the "rabbit in the headlights" effect I described a month ago when I said that the markets had underestimated the historic importance of President Chirac's election call.

"Surely it is inconceivable that EMU will be allowed to fail," investors said then, and they repeat it now. But history is filled with examples of apparently invincible leaders who are pushed by their vanity to take just one step too far — what might be called the Napoleon-in-Russia effect. The fact that this final step is often unnecessary and small does not diminish its fateful importance. Chancellor Kohl could easily have found other ways to satisfy the Maastricht treaty than tampering with the Bundesbank's gold, just as President Nixon could easily have won re-election without the Watergate burglary. But once the fatal step has been taken it cannot be reversed. It is now too late for Kohl to



Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister behind the plan to revalue Bundesbank gold reserves

say sorry to the Bundesbank and go back to where he was two weeks ago before Theo Waigel, his blundering Finance Minister, came up with the wheeze of reappraising the value of the Bundesbank's gold and treating the profit as government income. After the Bundesbank's unprecedented denunciation of Herr Waigel's "creative accounting" and the accusation that the Government was interfering with its constitutionally guaranteed independence, Herr Kohl must either brazenly defy the Bundesbank or back down and provide an open and transparent new plan to hit the Maastricht targets. Either course will be fraught with peril and could bring both Herr Kohl and his European vision crashing down.

Imagine (hard though it may be) that Herr Kohl decided to apologise and forget about the Bundesbank gold. In principle he could still then hit the Maastricht target by adding a few pennings to petrol taxes, as many of his advisers had urged all along. But any such tax increase would probably now be voted down by the SPD opposition, which controls the upper house of the German parliament. Higher taxes, which might previously have been presented as "the price of Europe", would now be seen as the price of saving Kohl from embarrassment and keeping him in power. With Kohl on the run — and with the French election showing that voters are no longer prepared to pay for their leaders' historical ambitions — the Opposition would

be far more tempted to turn both higher taxes and EMU into electoral issues. Indeed, higher taxes would probably be opposed by Herr Kohl's Free Democrat "allies" and even perhaps by his potential successors within the Christian Democrats.

Alternatively, Herr Kohl could leave the Bundesbank's gold alone and simply press ahead with EMU in spite of a deficit above the 3 per cent Maastricht target. Herr Waigel, who has stupidly staked his reputation on the mantra that "three is three", could be forced to eat his words or be made the scapegoat for the Bundesbank debacle. A week ago, such a course could have been defended as pragmatic politics and reasonable economics. Now this es-

cape route is almost closed. Having tried to desecrate the Bundesbank to meet the Maastricht target, Herr Kohl could hardly say that the target didn't matter after all. Even if he had the bare-faced cheek to do so, he could no longer be sure of steam-rolling the Opposition.

Opponents of EMU and of Herr Kohl personally — whatever their true motives — now have a magnificent cause on which to unite. From this week it will no longer be "anti-European" for Germans to argue against EMU: it will be "pro-Bundesbank", "pro-stability" or, at worst, "anti-Kohl". Even Herr Kohl's own party may think twice before following their leader on EMU, knowing that they will have to answer for it to the voters in October 1998.

The Constitutional Court will also have a genuine issue to settle if Herr Kohl suddenly declares that the 3 per cent limit did not matter after all. And the constitutional judges, hitherto assumed to be in the Chancellor's pocket, could be emboldened by the unexpected defiance shown by the Bundesbank, most of whose directorate had also been acting as Kohl puppets until now.

All in all there seems to be little prospect of Herr Kohl reversing his decision to use the Bundesbank's gold. But what if he does renege the gold? The Bundesbank's opposition could create a legal minefield since the bank must provide a report to the German parliament and the Constitutional Court on whether it considers the Maastricht conditions have been satisfied. Herr Tietmeyer must also vote in the European Monetary Institute about which countries are ready for the single currency. It is unlikely that even Herr Kohl would have the gall to go ahead with EMU if Herr Tietmeyer had voted against German membership.

Above all, the clash with the Bundesbank could transform German public opinion. EMU has never been popular among Germans, but until now it did not loom large as an issue in the public mind. People said they were against the single currency when asked by pollsters, but they did not give much weight to this issue when casting their votes — behaviour very similar to Britain's supposedly "Eurosceptical" voters. If, however, Herr Kohl overrides the Bundesbank, the EMU issue may rise to a different scale of prominence.

Instead of just inspiring a vague sense of historical unease, the single currency would be seen as a direct threat to living standards and jobs.

Germans respect the Bundesbank, but that is not the main point. They also have bitter memories of the last time Herr Kohl humiliated the Bundesbank by forcing it to exchange D-marks for worthless East German Ost-marks. Rightly or wrongly, German voters blame this decision for the vast reunification costs they have borne ever since.

Herr Kohl may believe that his triumph in uniting Germany has given him the licence to follow his political vision again wherever it leads. But history may not repeat itself. Unification justified sacrifice, but German voters do not give two hoots for Herr Kohl's vision of Europe. In blindly following his instincts a second time, Herr Kohl may have taken one small step too many — and gone off a cliff.

Tinseltown gloom may send Seagram back to its roots

When Edgar Bronfman Jr., the chief executive of Seagram, shocked the film industry with the \$5.7 billion purchase of MCA, the Hollywood studio whose hits have included *Jaws* and *The Sting*, the sceptics came out in force.

Here, they said, was another star-struck rich kid captivated by the glamour of Tinseltown. They claimed he knew nothing about the high-risk film industry and should have stuck with booze, the product that turned Seagram from a Prohibition-era bootlegging operation into one of the mightiest players in the global spirits market.

Two years later, the sceptics seem to have been proved right. Since the acquisition of MCA (now called Universal Studios), Seagram shares have underperformed the Dow Jones industrial average by about a third, while those of Du Pont, the chemicals company that Seagram sold to finance the MCA acquisition, have kept pace with the market. Seagram shareholders would have been far better off if the young man had left well enough alone.

Perhaps Edgar Jr is getting the message. Speculation is mounting that Seagram will return to its roots with a spirits acquisition and analysts believe Allied Domecq, the British drinks and pubs group, is the most logical candidate. Ron Littleboy, of Nomura Securities, said: "An aged merger of the spirits businesses of Allied and Seagram would be the preferred scenario for Seagram."

The rumours intensified on Wednesday when Seagram raised \$1.3 billion, after tax, from the sale of half its stake in Time Warner, the world's biggest media company.

Seagram came under pressure to make spirits, not Hollywood, its priority earlier this month when Guinness and GrandMet agreed a £23 billion merger that makes Seagram and Allied Domecq look like micro-breweries by comparison. Neither Seagram nor Allied Domecq would comment on any talks they have had with each other.

The British company, for its part, seems open to a deal. When Allied Domecq reported interim results earlier this month, Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman, said: "It is clear that consolidation is one way forward for the industry... Any board is going to be open to opportunities that consolidation might create."

Edgar Jr, unlike his father and grandfather, is not a booze man at heart. But if spirits remain Seagram's core business, he will have his hands full restoring its fortunes in the wake of the Guinness-GrandMet merger.

The Bronfman spirits empire dates back to Prohibition, when the production of beer, wine and spirits was banned in the US from 1920 to 1933. The Canadian version was lax by comparison. Sam Bronfman, Edgar's legendary grandfather, spotted an opportunity and formed Distillers Corporation in Montreal in 1924, which later acquired Joseph E Seagram & Sons.

Canadian prohibition did not prevent export sales, so Mr Sam, as he was called, sold whisky to bootleggers, who resold it to Americans. His smartest move was antici-

The company is under pressure to make spirits its priority, says Eric Reguly

ing the repeal of US Prohibition. He stockpiled enormous quantities of bottled whisky and flooded the US market when repeal was enacted. Sam spent the next decades building what would become the world's largest liquor operation with the purchase of distillers, distributors and wineries across North America, Europe, the Caribbean and South America. Among its better known brands were Chivas scotch whisky, VO (also Seagram's stock symbol on the Canadian and New York exchanges), and Mumm's champagne.

Sam's eldest son, Edgar Miles, became chief executive when Sam died in 1971. Now Seagram's chairman, he changed Seagram in the Eighties as fundamentally as Edgar Jr did with the MCA acquisition. Looking for industries that would grow faster than the already "mature" spirits business, Edgar Miles launched a \$2.1 billion bid for St Joe Minerals Corp.

When the bid failed, he attacked Conoco, then the ninth largest US oil producer. Du Pont came to Conoco's rescue and won after a bloody takeover battle. Seagram tendered its Conoco shares to Du Pont in exchange for a 20 per cent stake in Du Pont. The diversification strategy was a success. Du Pont typically contributed half of Seagram's income. At first, Edgar Jr did not seem his

father's logical successor. Movies were his passion. Sir David Puttnam, the Oscar-winning producer of *Chariots of Fire*, was a friend of the family and spent a great deal of time with Edgar Jr in the Seventies. Sir David was a good tutor and the young Bronfman became a producer. He is best known for *The Border*, a 1982 Jack Nicholson film that fared better with the critics than at the box office.

Edgar Jr's movie career did not go far and he landed at Seagram. He performed better than expected and, by the late Eighties, was pretty much running the show. His strategy, which was applauded by analysts, was to concentrate on expensive, high-margin brands. Martell, the French cognac maker, for \$1.2 billion, and the sale of most of the non-premium brands. He also bought Tropicana, the leading orange juice brand in the ready-to-serve market.

But Edgar Jr, like his father, was convinced that spirits would never again be a high-growth business and that entertainment presented better opportunities. So he traded Du Pont for MCA and waited for the riches to flow. It has not worked so far. Studios live and die at the box office and blockbusters such as *Jurassic Park* and its sequel, *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, are rare.

Since the MCA purchase, Edgar Jr's strategy has been unclear. Is Seagram an entertainment or spirits company? The reality is that the market might not support another entertainment acquisition. Seagram has toyed with the idea of buying EMI, the music group — until MCA becomes a solid performer.

In all probability, expanding in the spirits business will be the next move and Allied Domecq looks the best candidate.



Hits like *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* are rare

WHY SETTLE FOR A LEVEL PLAYING-FIELD?

infringe v. 1 hair fashionably combed forward (see *Beatles*) 2 Rugby Football obstruct someone accidentally on purpose 3 to break a law or a right.

novation n. 1 total lack of cheering or clapping (see *Synchronized Swimming*) 2 contract whereby a creditor at the request of the debtor agrees to take another person as debtor in place of the original debtor.

placing v. 1 a quota of flat fish 2 horses, dogs etc. in winning order (usu. foll. by *payoff*) 3 act of placing shares on behalf of clients.

court n. 1 place to buy strawberries and cream 2 treat with flattering attention (esp. clients) 3 where justice is administered.

For the definitive answers to your legal questions, call Rowe & Maw and give yourself an unsporting advantage.

Rowe & Maw

LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS
20 Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6HD
Tel: 0171 248 4282

Going Dutch

ONE of the City's heaviest hitters, John Reynolds, is quitting Schroders after 21 years for a lucrative post at ABN Amro Bank, Dutch owner of Hoare Govett. Something of a senior statesman at Schroders, he becomes chairman of ABN's corporate finance activities in Europe. No whisper of his salary, but, including bonus, he is not going to be giving up as a senior director of corporate finance at Schroders for anything too far short of seven figures. When I first heard

that ABN had hired John Reynolds, my response was, which one? There are at the last count four of that name at loose in the City, one a utilities analyst, although he may have left, one at Shandwick PR and the third at one of the big law firms. "I think we've got the right one," says my source. "They'd be a bit disappointed if they ended up with the lawyer or the Shandwick one."

AT THE LVMH annual meeting in Paris the champagne was going down very nicely, and the wine, vodka and gin — this is France, remember, and not the usual stinky British bash with a cup of coffee. Cold. And a biscuit. If you're lucky. But the one thing the French were not so keen on was Johnny Walker — a Guinness whisky. "Bet appears they are staging a boycott," sneered the barman.

Mail shot

BAFFLING, I know, but there definitely is some sort of black hole at the Post Office into which a tiny but identifiable proportion of our mail gets sucked. The Alliance & Leicester posted 619,000 letters a fortnight ago to members who did not want to hold their shares and had asked for them to be sold. About 100 of those letters



are lost forever, beyond the event horizon and into that parallel universe that some cosmologists tell us exists at the bottom of a singularity. This has prompted an interesting thought on the part of one A&L member, Wimbledon resident Ann Steele. She should have had about £1,300 for her shares. The same shares are now worth about £1,550. As she didn't get the original money, could she please have the larger sum? Close but no cigar, said the A&L, pointing to the fine print, as the bank put a second cheque into the post. She had signed irrevocable instructions to sell.

Coded message

AT THE Times we like to keep abreast of the news, even if we have to be a bit

guarded sometimes. On Tuesday we ran a cartoon of Sir Desmond Fitcher, chairman of United Utilities, in clogs and cap as the little Dutch boy trying to plug any number of leaks in the dyke. All very satirical, aimed at the water companies' rising tide of difficulties. It was, of course, a coded reference to the very secret engagement of Sir Desmond's daughter Samantha, that same weekend. She is marrying Ton Vermeer. He is from Holland, and spelling is obviously not his forte. You spotted the reference, didn't you?

THE image consultants have been at Liffe. The futures market's annual report is out. The front is a mess of sepia pictures of traders in blazers waving their arms about, Tony Blair, Michael Heseltine, the one-month Euromark — all terribly Eighties. Top right on the front cover, where you might expect the name of the company, are the letters BTF, a small chemicals company that used to be run by my old friend Frank Buckley. Hi, Frank. Heaven knows what it all has to do with Liffe.

Out of Africa

IF YOU have tears still to shed for Anglo-American, the huge South African mining house, prepare to shed them. I learn that Tiny Rowland is researching a book about the company, which he blames for the impending merger between Lonrho, his

creation, and JCI of South Africa. Tiny thinks the whole thing is a stitch-up aimed at allowing Anglo-American at Ashanti Goldfields, where he remains on the board, and Lonrho's 41 per cent stake in the same. Tiny's previous publications have been on Alan Bond, the jailed Australian financier, and the Al Fayed brothers, both the subject of earlier feuds with the great man. They were not exactly laudatory. In half a century of business experience in Africa, Tiny has a pretty good idea where most of the bones on that Continent are buried.

MARTIN WALLER



"Quick! The Germans are fighting — we'll be able to get to the sunbeds first!"



John Reynolds, the Schroders old hand, has been lured to a lucrative post at ABN Amro

This is the text of a circular posted to Lonrho Shareholders by Mr R W Rowland

LONRHO - JCI MERGER

Will two losers make one winner?

Lonrho, a famous African presence, has been approached by JCI.

Who, What and Why is JCI?

JCI is the rump of a former stock market favourite, 'Johnnies'. As Johannesburg Consolidated it was part of the Anglo-American family until the Anglo strategy board decided that some part of the vast empire should be made available for what was described as black empowerment, a mark of respect for the new order in South Africa. The valuable platinum mines of JCI were transferred back to Anglo, and the remainder split into mining and non-mining assets. Anglo in practice controls policy and management of the mining assets which form JCI today. The company has had a facelift by the appointment of Mr Mzi Khumalo who, while he has little relevant commercial experience, has a creditable political background. It has recently lost its managing director.

JCI's new chairman and his consortium are buying their 50 million JCI shares from Anglo-American for 54.50 Rand a share. According to the South African financial press other major institutional investors were unwilling to back Mr Khumalo and Saffie on the acquisition of the JCI shares from Anglo, because the shares were thought to be overpriced. A rights issue at Saffie was only 8% subscribed. As a result Anglo had to provide most of the funds through its associates and subsidiaries. The JCI share price on 23 May 1997 was 41.80 Rand per share giving an unrealised book loss of £90 million (R635 million). According to Business Day "... the new JCI owners were nervous about the share price and would want to make up for the premium they paid for control." Incidentally Mr Khumalo and his group have 30% of JCI, the standard percentage which the Oppenheims consider necessary for control. Anglo retains a direct 18% in JCI. Anglo and its associates control Saffie.

JCI has not had a popular launch, and in addition the new board has many covenants over its decision making, imposed by Anglo as principal lender. So far, JCI is a loser.

ANGLO

Lonrho is being approached by JCI at Anglo's urging, doubly motivated in wishing to see their black empowerment initiative looking good in front of the public and the new government, and wanting to offset the intervention of the European Commission in Anglo's direct control of Lonrho. Anglo's top men, like finance director Mr King and technical director Mr Wadeson, are on the JCI board. Mr Wadeson was on the Lonrho board until this month. Cosmetically Wadeson had to go from the Lonrho board in order to prevent a risible situation arising as two satellites of Anglo pretend to have independent talks with each other.

Should this Anglo inspired merger succeed in any form, whether 60/40 or 50/50, the typical linked shareholding pattern will give final power to E. Oppenheimer & Son, with their see-saw 8% at the top of the structure. Although the European Commission has ordered Anglo to sell down their Lonrho shareholding to 9.9%, a Lonrho-JCI merger would in my view effectively nullify the ruling as there is simply far too much Anglo in the pie. Lonrho as a company ought not to be seen attempting to violate the spirit of the EC ruling.

Anglo is facing a loss of over a hundred million pounds on its purchase of Lonrho shares, but it is not the fault of Lonrho shareholders that Anglo made a bog of the put option at 180 pence with Lonrho's former chief executive Mr Bock. The shares fell from 217 pence to 116 pence mainly because of Bock and Anglo. There can be no obligation for the main body of shareholders to make up Anglo's loss or save Anglo's face by handing Lonrho to JCI.

ASHANTI SWAP

As part of the scheme, Lonrho is considering giving Anglo control of the Ashanti mine in Ghana in exchange for cancelling the Lonrho shares which Anglo now regret buying according to the financial press. Ashanti was and will continue to be Lonrho's most coveted asset. We should all be so lucky as to be able to dictate the reparations we want for our own mistakes.

Why should Lonrho's shareholders part with Ashanti, the lowest cost gold producer in Africa, only to receive shareholdings in South African gold mining companies, which are far more vulnerable to low gold prices due to their higher production cost and which have less potential than Ashanti?

I would value Lonrho's stake in Ashanti at no less than £500 million, and it would be dire mismanagement if Lonrho has to part with it. If it has to be

sold then in shareholders' paramount interest it must be sold by competitive tender with the approval of the government of Ghana. Our company could cause collateral damage to the economy of Ghana and to our own image if the proudly independent Ashanti Mine becomes just another South African investment, as a result of our board's actions. In view of the help and support the Ghana government always extended to Lonrho it would be a betrayal to make it 'Anglo's Ashanti'.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF JCI

It is un-nerving, after the heavy costs shareholders have already funded for abortive de-merger and flotation proposals, to see in the British press Lonrho talking of 'due diligence' exercises to value the relative assets of Lonrho and JCI. Lonrho has always been open with its shareholders and cannot need a due diligence - our directors ought to know the value of our company, and SBC Warburg, who are acting for JCI, were acting for Lonrho earlier this year. The due diligence exercise in connection with the Gencor offer to merge with our platinum assets, and the due diligence to prepare our hotels for flotation BOTH resulted in unsustainable figures, in one case too low, and in the other far too high, and BOTH were enormously costly. Neither deal was done. What are we employing the directors for, if they cannot do a good deal for us? In thirty two years as Chief Executive I did not ask for a due diligence, although Lonrho took over hundreds of companies. These are the fiduciary responsibilities of the directors, not of merchant banks. For my own part as a major shareholder of Lonrho I would not want JCI paper, and look to the Lonrho board to protect the company's assets regardless of the friendships or ties they may have in South Africa, where Anglo reigns supreme.

LONRHO - LOSING EVERY ROUND

Shareholders have suffered a number of defeats and wrong turnings at Lonrho. Before entering into these negotiations, can Lonrho's board assure shareholders that this is not a cul-de-sac ending in a further ruling by Brussels on competition grounds due to Anglo's hefty involvement?

Trustees hold Anglo-American's further 18.4% in Lonrho, for sale only to parties not related to Anglo. The present proposals would have the effect of increasing Anglo's overall interest in Lonrho, which was not the intention. The trustees cannot on a reasonable interpretation of their role vote FOR a LONRHO-JCI merger.

Our board previously negotiated a platinum merger with Gencor on terms so prejudicial to Lonrho that I was obliged, for my own peace of mind, to assemble a technical team to oppose it first in Britain and then in Brussels. Even then there was comment in South Africa about the curious relative asset values agreed by the Lonrho board. Time and the record of Impala Platinum, the board's 'strong merger partner', have proved how right I was to do that. I also strongly opposed Anglo's entry since they announced that they had no intention of making an offer to all shareholders, but every intention of enjoying our assets. I wasn't far wrong there, as the share price of Lonrho collapsed.

Our board cannot bring shareholder value to us. They cannot protect the profits Lonrho used to make and have sold our two major cash cows, the Metropole Hotels and the Sugar Estates. What happened to all those pie-in-the-sky flotations and mergers? Where is the £700-800 million for our hotels and that Oh-so-generous Saudi prince? Just a twinkle in a public relations man's glass of Bordeaux, I fear.

CONCLUSION

For today's JCI, Lonrho is a good target. They achieve a London quotation, dilution of the empowerment factor which has not yet attracted a following on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, overseas assets and a perceived opportunity for growth outside the South African economy. Lonrho achieves little - undiscounted South African assets (for JCI has nothing else, barring a small holding in Johnson Matthey), narrowing of the asset base and in my opinion, increased risk in the medium and longer term. Anglo American with SBC Warburg will be able to convince many young analysts that their arithmetic is super. My own view is based on about fifty years successfully developing mining and industrial business across Africa.

Yours truly,

Tim Rowland

LONDON, 27 MAY 1997

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1987 Low Landings				1987 Low Landings			
High	Low	Price	%	High	Low	Price	%
63	63	13.0	13.0	209	121	181	181
64	64	13.0	13.0	210	121	181	181
65	65	13.0	13.0	211	121	181	181
66	66	13.0	13.0	212	121	181	181
67	67	13.0	13.0	213	121	181	181
68	68	13.0	13.0	214	121	181	181
69	69	13.0	13.0	215	121	181	181
70	70	13.0	13.0	216	121	181	181
71	71	13.0	13.0	217	121	181	181
72	72	13.0	13.0	218	121	181	181
73	73	13.0	13.0	219	121	181	181
74	74	13.0	13.0	220	121	181	181
75	75	13.0	13.0	221	121	181	181
76	76	13.0	13.0	222	121	181	181
77	77	13.0	13.0	223	121	181	181
78	78	13.0	13.0	224	121	181	181
79	79	13.0	13.0	225	121	181	181
80	80	13.0	13.0	226	121	181	181
81	81	13.0	13.0	227	121	181	181
82	82	13.0	13.0	228	121	181	181
83	83	13.0	13.0	229	121	181	181
84	84	13.0	13.0	230	121	181	181
85	85	13.0	13.0	231	121	181	181
86	86	13.0	13.0	232	121	181	181
87	87	13.0	13.0	233	121	181	181
88	88	13.0	13.0	234	121	181	181
89	89	13.0	13.0	235	121	181	181
90	90	13.0	13.0	236	121	181	181
91	91	13.0	13.0	237	121	181	181
92	92	13.0	13.0	238	121	181	181
93	93	13.0	13.0	239	121	181	181
94	94	13.0	13.0	240	121	181	181
95	95	13.0	13.0	241	121	181	181
96	96	13.0	13.0	242	121	181	181
97	97	13.0	13.0	243	121	181	181
98	98	13.0	13.0	244	121	181	181
99	99	13.0	13.0	245	121	181	181
100	100	13.0	13.0	246	121	181	181
101	101	13.0	13.0	247	121	181	181
102	102	13.0	13.0	248	121	181	181
103	103	13.0	13.0	249	121	181	181
104	104	13.0	13.0	250	121	181	181
105	105	13.0	13.0	251	121	181	181
106	106	13.0	13.0	252	121	181	181
107	107	13.0	13.0	253	121	181	181
108	108	13.0	13.0	254	121	181	181
109	109	13.0	13.0	255	121	181	181
110	110	13.0	13.0	256	121	181	181
111	111	13.0	13.0	257	121	181	181
112	112	13.0	13.0	258	121	181	181
113	113	13.0	13.0	259	121	181	181
114	114	13.0	13.0	260	121	181	181
115	115	13.0	13.0	261	121	181	181
116	116	13.0	13.0	262	121	181	181
117	117	13.0	13.0	263	121	181	181
118	118	13.0	13.0	264	121	181	181
119	119	13.0	13.0	265	121	181	181
120	120	13.0	13.0	266	121	181	181
121	121	13.0	13.0	267	121	181	181
122	122	13.0	13.0	268	121	181	181
123	123	13.0	13.0	269	121	181	181
124	124	13.0	13.0	270	121	181	181
125	125	13.0	13.0	271	121	181	181
126	126	13.0	13.0	272	121	181	181
127	127	13.0	13.0	273	121	181	181
128	128	13.0	13.0	274	121	181	181
129	129	13.0	13.0	275	121	181	181
130	130	13.0	13.0	276	121	181	181
131	131	13.0	13.0	277	121	181	181
132	132	13.0	13.0	278	121	181	181
133	133	13.0	13.0	279	121	181	181
134	134	13.0	13.0	280	121	181	181
135	135	13.0	13.0	281	121	181	181
136	136	13.0	13.0	282	121	181	181
137	137	13.0	13.0	283	121	181	181
138	138	13.0	13.0	284	121	181	181
139	139	13.0	13.0	285	121	181	181
140	140	13.0	13.0	286	121	181	181
141	141	13.0	13.0	287	121	181	181
142	142	13.0	13.0	288	121	181	181
143	143	13.0	13.0	289	121	181	181
144	144	13.0	13.0	290	121	181	181
145	145	13.0	13.0	291	121	181	181
146	146	13.0	13.0	292	121	181	181
147	147	13.0	13.0	293	121	181	181
148	148	13.0	13.0	294	121	181	181
149	149	13.0	13.0	295	121	181	181
150	150	13.0	13.0	296	121	181	181
151	151	13.0	13.0	297	121	181	181
152	152	13.0	13.0	298	121	181	181
153	153	13.0	13.0	299	121	181	181
154	154	13.0	13.0	300	121	181	181
155	155	13.0	13.0	301	121	181	181
156	156	13.0	13.0	302	121	181	181
157	157	13.0	13.0	303	121	181	181
158	158	13.0	13.0	304	121	181	181
159	159	13.0	13.0	305	121	181	181
160	160	13.0	13.0	306	121	181	181
161	161	13.0	13.0	307	121	181	181
162	162	13.0	13.0	308	121	181	181
163	163	13.0	13.0	309	121	181	181
164	164	13.0	13.0	310	121	181	181
165	165	13.0	13.0	311	121	181	181
166	166	13.0	13.0	312	121	181	181
167	167	13.0	13.0	313	121	181	181
168	168	13.0	13.0	314	121	181	181
169	169	13.0	13.0	315	121	181	181
170	170	13.0	13.0	316	121	181	181
171	171	13.0	13.0	317	121	181	181
172	172	13.0	13.0	318	121	181	181
173	173	13.0	13.0	319	121	181	181
174	174	13.0	13.0	320	121	181	181
175	175	13.0	13.0	321	121	181	181
176	176	13.0	13.0	322	121	181	181
177	177	13.0	13.0	323	121	181	181
178	178	13.0	13.0	324	121	181	181
179	179	13.0	13.0	325	121	181	181
180	180	13.0	13.0	326	121	181	181
181	181	13.0	13.0	327	121	181	181
182	182	13.0	13.0	328	121	181	181
183	183	13.0	13.0	329	121	181	181
184	184	13.0	13.0	330	121	181	181
185	185	13.0	13.0	331	121	181	181
186	186	13.0	13.0	332	121	181	181
187	187	13.0	13.0	333	121	181	181
188	188	13.0	13.0	334	121	181	181
189	189	13.0	13.0	335	121	181	181
190	190	13.0	13.0	336	121	181	181
191	191	13.0	13.0	337	121	181	181
192	192	13.0	13.0	338	121	181	181
193	193	13.0	13.0	339	121	181	181
194	194	13.0	13.0	340	121	181	181
195	195	13.0	13.0	341	121	181	181
196	196	13.0	13.0	342	121	181	181
197	197	13.0	13.0	343	121	181	181
198	198	13.0	13.0	344	121	181	181
199	199	13.0	13.0	345	121	181	181
200	200	13.0	13.0	346	121	181	181
201	201	13.0	13.0	347	121	181	181
202	202	13.0	13.0	348	121	181	181
203	203	13.0	13.0	349	121	181	181
204	204	13.0	13.0	350	121	181	181
205	205	13.0	13.0	351	121	181	181
206	206	13.0	13.0	352	121	181	181
207	207	13.0	13.0	353	121	181	181
208	208	13.0	13.0	354	121	181	181
209	209	13.0	13.0	355	121	181	181
210	210	13.0	13.0	356	121	181	181
211	211	13.0	13.0	357	121	181	181
212	212	13.0	13.0	358	121	181	181
213	213	13.0	13.0	359	121	181	181
214	214	13.0	13.0	360	121	181	181
215	215	13.0	13.0	361	121	181	181
216	216	13.0	13.0	362	121	181	181
217	217	13.0	13.0	363	121	181	181
218	218	13.0	13.0	364	121	181	181
219	219	13.0	13.0	365	121	181	181
220	220	13.0	13.0	366	121	181	181
221	221	13.0	13.0	367	121	181	181
222	222	13.0	13.0	368	121	181	181
223	223	13.0	13.0	369	121	181	181
224	224	13.0	13.0	370	121	181	181
225	225	13.0	13.0	371	121	181	181
226	226	13.0	13.0	372	121	181	181
227	227	13.0	13.0	373	121	181	181
228	228	13.0	13.0	374	121	181	181
229	229	13.0	13.0	375	121	181	181
230	230	13.0	13.0	376	121	181	181
231	231	13.0	13.0	377	121	181	181
232	232	13.0	13.0	378	121	181	181
233	233	13.0	13.0	379	121	181	181
234	234	13.0	13.0	380	121	181	181
235	235	13.0	13.0	381	121	181	181
236	236	13.0	13.0	382	121	181	181
237	237	13.0	13.0	383	121	181	181
238	238	13.0	13.0	384	121	181	181
239	239	13.0					

Legal fight nipped in the bud at Interflora

By Jason Nisse

THE dozen former directors of Interflora, ousted in a florists' revolt earlier this month, have called off their legal fight to be reinstated.

The ex-directors, led by David Parry, the former chairman, had claimed that the extraordinary general meeting, which was attended by 960 Interflora members in Warwick on May 11, did not have the right to vote them off the board and that there should be a postal ballot of all 2,600 members.

The extraordinary general meeting was requisitioned by Beverly Wood, a florist from Leeds, who was unhappy with plans to change the structure of Interflora, which could have led to a flotation on the stock market.

But yesterday Mr Parry said: "After extensive review of the likely time involved and financial costs of legal action and the effect such action might have on the association and its members, we have decided not to pursue the matter through the courts."

This was in spite of lawyers advising the dozen that they had a case and a petition from 460 florists supporting them. One of the deciding factors is understood to have been the time court action would have taken. Even if successful, it would be unlikely that a postal ballot could be staged before September.

Interflora's annual general meeting is scheduled to take place in October and the former directors are aiming to seek re-election.

Geoff Hughes, the Bristol-based florist who replaced Mr Parry as chairman, said Interflora had taken legal advice that confirmed it was right in not having a postal ballot.

Siebe 'Ninja' teams hope to save £50m a year by 2000

By George Sivell

SIEBE, the engineering group, hopes to deliver a powerful kick to its quality control operation by deploying Ninja-style trained engineers. Allen Yurko, Siebe chief executive, said that the company is gradually introducing "black-belt" engineers who will be rushed to any Siebe installation that shows a defect.

Two master black-belt engineers have been used from late 1995 and 40 more are being trained, in addition to 200 lower level black belts. The programme reaped £8 million of net costs last year. Net savings of about £50 million a year are hoped for by the year 2000, which are expected to drop straight through to profits. It is hoped that greater reliability will also boost sales.

Siebe, which recently made an agreed £330 million bid for APV, the food manufacturing equipment maker, yesterday reported a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £424 million for the year to April 5.

Sales rose 15 per cent to £3,005 billion. Earnings per share rose 20 per cent to 54p, out of which dividends rise 10 per cent to 14.7p a share, including a 9.8p final, up 10.5 per cent. The shares rose 10p to 858p.

Siebe said that it is targeting underlying sales and operating profits growth of 10 and 15 per cent respectively for 1997-98 and is confident of producing another "solid overall performance" for the 12 months to March 1998.

Barrie Stephens, chairman, said: "The second half of the year witnessed accelerating organic sales growth coupled with increased profits and margins. Order backlog at the year-end stood at £883 million, 23.4 per cent up on 1996, and this has given Siebe a very good start for the new year."

"Although currencies remain a concern, the group is able to manage the situation by flexing production volumes between countries. We do not see any signs of a recession in our main markets — indeed, North America, the Far East and Middle Eastern markets remain strong and we continue to see some signs of growth in continental Europe. The board is therefore very confident of continuing the underlying growth in Siebe's business operations."

Borrowings have risen during the year to 55.5 per cent of shareholder funds, compared with 40 per cent. During the year Siebe took over Unitech, which has integrated well into Siebe and made it a world leader in power control systems for electrical equipment. The first closing date for Siebe's APV offer is June 5 and it currently speaks for about 9.9 per cent of APV's shares.



Allen Yurko, left, and Barrie Stephens are confident of producing another "solid overall performance" this year

Barrie Stephens, chairman, said: "The second half of the year witnessed accelerating organic sales growth coupled with increased profits and margins. Order backlog at the year-end stood at £883 million, 23.4 per cent up on 1996, and this has given Siebe a very good start for the new year."

"Although currencies remain a concern, the group is able to manage the situation by flexing production volumes between countries. We do not see any signs of a recession in our main markets — indeed, North America, the Far East and Middle Eastern markets remain strong and we continue to see some signs of growth in continental Europe. The board is therefore very confident of continuing the underlying growth in Siebe's business operations."

Borrowings have risen during the year to 55.5 per cent of shareholder funds, compared with 40 per cent. During the year Siebe took over Unitech, which has integrated well into Siebe and made it a world leader in power control systems for electrical equipment. The first closing date for Siebe's APV offer is June 5 and it currently speaks for about 9.9 per cent of APV's shares.

Borrowings have risen during the year to 55.5 per cent of shareholder funds, compared with 40 per cent. During the year Siebe took over Unitech, which has integrated well into Siebe and made it a world leader in power control systems for electrical equipment. The first closing date for Siebe's APV offer is June 5 and it currently speaks for about 9.9 per cent of APV's shares.

Borrowings have risen during the year to 55.5 per cent of shareholder funds, compared with 40 per cent. During the year Siebe took over Unitech, which has integrated well into Siebe and made it a world leader in power control systems for electrical equipment. The first closing date for Siebe's APV offer is June 5 and it currently speaks for about 9.9 per cent of APV's shares.

Borrowings have risen during the year to 55.5 per cent of shareholder funds, compared with 40 per cent. During the year Siebe took over Unitech, which has integrated well into Siebe and made it a world leader in power control systems for electrical equipment. The first closing date for Siebe's APV offer is June 5 and it currently speaks for about 9.9 per cent of APV's shares.

Pearson primed to buy Fairfax titles

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

PEARSON, owner of the *Financial Times*, confirmed yesterday that it is interested in spending up to A\$1.8 billion (£900 million) buying parts of John Fairfax, the Australian newspaper group.

Robert McKay, managing director of Australian Independent Newspapers, the Pearson-led consortium, said that the group had told the Australian Government it was particularly interested in buying two Fairfax newspapers, the *Australian Financial Review* and the *Melbourne Age*, if they became available.

The Australian Government has indicated that it may liberalise media ownership law to allow Pearson to purchase the titles. Media analysts say that *The Australian Financial Review* could carry a price tag of about A\$400 million, while *The Age* could fetch up to A\$1.4 billion.

The proposal to relax the media ownership rules in the Sydney and Melbourne markets would also allow Kerry Packer to buy the *Melbourne Age* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, another Fairfax title, while retaining his Nine television network in Australia. Under the existing rules Mr Packer is prevented from increasing his 15 per cent Fairfax stake while still owning Nine.

It is understood the Australian Government is also considering a proposal to increase the limits on foreign media ownership to 25 per cent, which would clear the way for News Ltd, sister company to News International, owner of *The Times*, to increase its stake in the Seven television network from 15 to 25 per cent.

Sir Laurence Street, chairman of Fairfax, condemned the reform proposals: "I think it's an appalling thought that a dynamic body such as Fairfax could be allowed to be broken up, let alone have the breaking up encouraged."

One media analyst said that the Government would face strong opposition if it changed the media ownership laws in Mr Packer's favour: "No one thinks it is a good idea to hand Fairfax to Packer."

Richard Alston, the Communications Minister, said: "Any decision will reflect a need for editorial diversity."

It is understood the Australian Government is also considering a proposal to increase the limits on foreign media ownership to 25 per cent, which would clear the way for News Ltd, sister company to News International, owner of *The Times*, to increase its stake in the Seven television network from 15 to 25 per cent.

Sir Laurence Street, chairman of Fairfax, condemned the reform proposals: "I think it's an appalling thought that a dynamic body such as Fairfax could be allowed to be broken up, let alone have the breaking up encouraged."

One media analyst said that the Government would face strong opposition if it changed the media ownership laws in Mr Packer's favour: "No one thinks it is a good idea to hand Fairfax to Packer."

Richard Alston, the Communications Minister, said: "Any decision will reflect a need for editorial diversity."

It is understood the Australian Government is also considering a proposal to increase the limits on foreign media ownership to 25 per cent, which would clear the way for News Ltd, sister company to News International, owner of *The Times*, to increase its stake in the Seven television network from 15 to 25 per cent.

Sir Laurence Street, chairman of Fairfax, condemned the reform proposals: "I think it's an appalling thought that a dynamic body such as Fairfax could be allowed to be broken up, let alone have the breaking up encouraged."

One media analyst said that the Government would face strong opposition if it changed the media ownership laws in Mr Packer's favour: "No one thinks it is a good idea to hand Fairfax to Packer."

Richard Alston, the Communications Minister, said: "Any decision will reflect a need for editorial diversity."

It is understood the Australian Government is also considering a proposal to increase the limits on foreign media ownership to 25 per cent, which would clear the way for News Ltd, sister company to News International, owner of *The Times*, to increase its stake in the Seven television network from 15 to 25 per cent.

Sir Laurence Street, chairman of Fairfax, condemned the reform proposals: "I think it's an appalling thought that a dynamic body such as Fairfax could be allowed to be broken up, let alone have the breaking up encouraged."

One media analyst said that the Government would face strong opposition if it changed the media ownership laws in Mr Packer's favour: "No one thinks it is a good idea to hand Fairfax to Packer."

Richard Alston, the Communications Minister, said: "Any decision will reflect a need for editorial diversity."

It is understood the Australian Government is also considering a proposal to increase the limits on foreign media ownership to 25 per cent, which would clear the way for News Ltd, sister company to News International, owner of *The Times*, to increase its stake in the Seven television network from 15 to 25 per cent.

Sir Laurence Street, chairman of Fairfax, condemned the reform proposals: "I think it's an appalling thought that a dynamic body such as Fairfax could be allowed to be broken up, let alone have the breaking up encouraged."

One media analyst said that the Government would face strong opposition if it changed the media ownership laws in Mr Packer's favour: "No one thinks it is a good idea to hand Fairfax to Packer."

Richard Alston, the Communications Minister, said: "Any decision will reflect a need for editorial diversity."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Stakis seeks £45m from sale of hotels

STAKIS, the hotels group, plans to sell eight three-star hotels, which it believes are not compatible with a portfolio of four-star hotels. The hotels are likely to fetch up to £45 million, which will be reinvested in the three Stakis operating divisions — hotels, casinos and health and leisure clubs. The move comes after the £327 million acquisition of five Metropole Hotels from Lourho last November and the decision to build four hotels.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to March 30 rose 86 per cent to £22.2 million thanks to the Metropole acquisition. The half-year dividend rises 11 per cent to 1.05p out of earnings up from 2.23p to 2.84p. Hotel profits reached £31.6 million, boosted by a maiden £11 million contribution from the 19 weeks trading of Metropole. Casino profits fell £1.2 million to £3.5 million. The health clubs made a maiden profit of £60,000.

Norbain chief departs

NORBAIN, the industrial distribution group, revealed yesterday that Mick Daw, the chief executive, is to leave by mutual consent on June 6. Alan John, a main board director, will assume day-to-day responsibility as group managing director pending the appointment of a new chief executive. The group expects to announce a full-year profit of at least £5 million for the year to April 30, against £3.3 million last time. The shares rose 14½p to 21½p.

Richards close to deal

RICHARDS, the Aberdeen-based textiles company, is close to agreeing the sale of its mill in Newtownards, County Down, Northern Ireland, to Regency Carpets. Richards expects to raise over £3 million from the sale, which will go towards paying off debts. It reported a pre-tax profit of £7,000 for the six months to March 31, compared to a loss of £51,000 a year ago. It will pay a maintained interim dividend of 1.07p on July 1. The company is "circumspect" about its short-term outlook.

Bupa's £34m purchase

COMMUNITY Hospitals is to sell 14 of its 16 nursing homes to a unit of Bupa for about £34 million. Community Hospitals said that the consideration for the disposal included £28.6 million in cash and the assumption by Bupa of obligations amounting to £5.4 million relating to Business Expansion Scheme financing arrangements. Completion is expected to take place on June 17. Community Hospitals intends to concentrate its resources on its hospitals.

Co-op pharmacist ahead

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CHEMISTS, the country's leading co-operative pharmacist, saw its trading surplus rise in the year to January 25 from £4.5 million to £4.75 million. Ray Carrington, the chief executive, said that the group was consolidating after a time of rapid expansion. NCC is largely owned by the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which beat off a proposed bid from Galileo, the corporate vehicle of Andrew Regan.

Apax Finsbury formed

REA BROTHERS, the merchant bank, and Apax Partners, the venture capital group, have formed a joint venture to provide asset management services to investment trusts. The company, Apax Finsbury Investment Management, will take charge of two trusts with gross assets of £164 million. Apax recently recruited the award-winning team of Mark Tyndall, John Dodd, Derek Stuart and Lindsay Whitelaw from Ivory & Sime.

Unit trust prices appear on page 37

RAO Gazprom 1996 Annual Results

Extracts from a message to Shareholders from the Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Management Committee

"Notable achievements in a complex environment"

World's largest gas reserves

- The Company controls the world's largest gas reserves and its production provided more than a half of Russia's demand for energy resources
- The Company's taxes amount to 25% of all tax revenues of the federal budget
- The Company also proved that it is powerful enough to be the backbone of the national economy during this difficult period of transition
- Gazprom's business activities were characterized by stability and reliable supplies to gas consumers in Russia and abroad

Stability and reliable supplies to gas consumers

- Gas production increased by 5.2 bcm and 243 wells and 2,889 km of pipeline were put into operation
- Construction of the Yamal-Europe project, a pipeline from the Yamal Peninsula to Germany, proceeded smoothly
- Gazprom is capable of producing up to 1,740 mln m³ of gas per day
- A stabilization of gas consumption rates in Russia gives us a good reason to look optimistically at domestic sales prospects
- Last year the total volume of gas deliverable in the future under long term contracts increased by 51%

Lax payment discipline

- Decline in production in the main branches of the Russian economy greatly undermined payment discipline
- Non-payments for gas by consumers in Russia and "near abroad" countries reached 68.3 trillion roubles at year end
- The company received only 61% of sales value of gas delivered to the Russian market
- Due to a majority of state sector gas consumers delaying their payments, Gazprom is a net creditor of the federal budget
- Inability to pay on the part of the consumers greatly affected the ratio of the Company's accounts payable to accounts receivable

- Following extensive discussions with government, the necessity of further strengthening RAO Gazprom as a single entity and the flagship of the Russian economy has been reaffirmed

Significant changes to ensure a considerable increase in the Company's effectiveness

- During the year, the Company performed extensive preparatory work to introduce significant changes in the organizational structure of the industry, thereby ensuring a considerable increase in its effectiveness
- All drilling enterprises of RAO Gazprom were united into one separate company
- Subsidiaries engaged in gas production are being transformed into limited liability JSCs to perform only their direct function i.e. gas production
- To centralize gas sales, the Company established Mezhrregiongaz company, which has branches in more than 60 regions of the country to improve its financial performance through optimizing cash flows and settlements with gas consumers
- Enterprises not related to gas production and transportation will be converted into separate commercial structures and subsequently transferred into enterprises engaged in independent activity
- The third stage of reorganization will deal primarily with the system of managing joint ventures established with Gazprom's participation both in Russia and abroad
- The objective of structural changes is to promote competition in regional gas markets, expedite payment for supplied gas, reduce overheads and increase the Company's profits

A.I.Kazakov

Chairman of the Board

R.I.Vyakhirev

Chairman of the Management Committee

RAO Gazprom Consolidated Financial Data As At 1 January 1997		Bln. roubles
Fixed assets		359,701
Net assets		471,288
For the year ended 31 December 1996		
Sales of products (works, services) less VAT and excise tax		115,536
Balance-sheet profit		45,091
Profit tax		11,876
Net profit		33,215
Profit put to use		23,908
Share of minority in loss		48
Retained profit of reporting year		9,353

The consolidated financial data above were prepared in accordance with Russian accounting standards which differ to a significant extent from international accounting standards.

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

Free entry to a National Trust summer evening event



This week *The Times* offers you the chance to go to one of 31 National Trust evening concerts or plays, absolutely FREE (a selection appears right). To get your free ticket collect four different tokens from those printed in *The Times* this week. You can also use the token printed in *The Sunday Times* last Sunday. You may apply for one free ticket per household. An application form, plus full details of how to book and the starting times of performances will also appear again in tomorrow's paper. The price of children's tickets varies so you are advised to call the inquiry number 0181 315 1111 on weekdays between 9am-5.30pm. For a list of other National Trust events please write to: The National Trust, PO Box 39, Bromley, Kent BR1 3XL, enclosing a 28p stamp.

*Free entry to the Fête Champêtre at Stourhead Landscape Garden, Sturton, Wiltshire, is available on Thurs and Fri July 24 and 25 only.

CHOOSE ONE OF THESE EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
July 12	Concert	Stourhead
July 13	Concert	Stourhead
July 14	Concert	Stourhead
July 15	Concert	Stourhead
July 16	Concert	Stourhead
July 17	Concert	Stourhead
July 18	Concert	Stourhead
July 19	Concert	Stourhead
July 20	Concert	Stourhead
July 21	Concert	Stourhead
July 22	Concert	Stourhead
July 23	Concert	Stourhead
July 24	Concert	Stourhead
July 25	Concert	Stourhead
July 26	Concert	Stourhead
July 27	Concert	Stourhead
July 28	Concert	Stourhead
July 29	Concert	Stourhead
July 30	Concert	Stourhead
July 31	Concert	Stourhead



DANCE 1

US choreographer Mark Morris has waited a long time to bring his 1980s hit *L'Allegro* to London



DANCE 2

Belgian export: Alain Platel presents his study in sorrow to London's Turning World festival

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA

Handel proves he is still good box office as the Covent Garden Festival stages his *Ariodante*



TOMORROW

Derek Deane's in-the-round Albert Hall production of *Swan Lake* is reviewed

DANCE: Why an American choreographer now has two British opera companies on his CV. Plus dance and opera reviews

An Allegro driven by a Morris

Allen Robertson meets Mark Morris on the eve of his Coliseum debut

Nothing but the best will do for Mark Morris. Just look at his eclectic list of collaborators. He has devised choreography for Mikhail Baryshnikov and Peter Sellars, and collaborated with the likes of Yo Yo Ma and Paul Simon. Now he is working with English National Opera and Jane Glover, who will be conducting performances by the Mark Morris Dance Group at the London Coliseum next week. "She is fabulous," Morris gushes. "The mind-stretching Glover."

A man of passionate enthusiasms, who invariably talks in exclamation marks, Morris proudly wears his heart on his sleeve. He is an enthusiast; a characteristic which accounts for the joyous radiance that infuses his dances. This is particularly true of the work Morris is bringing to ENO. Handel's setting of the Milton poems known as *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*.

A triumph wherever it has toured, which is virtually everywhere — except Antarctica and London. *L'Allegro* has been hailed as one of the greatest late 20th-century dance works. It is a lyrical epic complete with five solo singers, a full chorus and a cast of 24 dancers, all sweeping along on a tide of ebullient energy. It is marvelously disarming, deceptively simple on its surface, yet filled with a subtly dazzling complexity which only a major artist could spin out with such felicitous ease. "I'm not anti-London," the choreographer insists. "It's just that there

have been no theatres for us to fit into. I mean, come on, the old Sadler's Wells was a joke. I couldn't shoe-horn *L'Allegro* in there just to be able to claim I'd conquered London, could I? London is important, but there are limits, certain standards you have to uphold for yourself. But, yes, I'm utterly thrilled to finally have the chance to bring this to London."

Morris, Seattle-born, New York-based and recently turned 40, has a track record second to none when it comes to the Edinburgh Festival — six seasons in a row, each one a sell-out. "How did that happen?" he asks himself as his eyebrows head towards the ceiling. "I don't know, but we love it."

This year sees his biggest Edinburgh risk of all, a new staging of an 18th-century rarity, an *opéra-ballet* by Rameau called *Platée*. "I've always loved Rameau, all 18th-century music in fact, but even I had never heard of it."

First suggested to Morris by Edinburgh supremo Brian McMaster, the staging of *Platée* opens the Edinburgh Festival on August 11. It is a collaboration with the Royal Opera which transfers to the Barbican in London for a month of repertory performances in the autumn.

Morris's version, which has outlandish anthropomorphic costumes by Isaac Mizrahi, opens in a sleazy after-hours bar. The story, a crazily askew look at Greek myth, begins with Bacchus as a bartender. There is a terrarium perched on his bar and once we are launched into the story itself, this expands



The American choreographer Mark Morris at home in New York: with the theatre problem solved, he is "utterly thrilled to have the chance to bring *L'Allegro* to London"

like some dreamworld fantasy, into the full set for most of the opera.

"The whole story is silly," Morris says, "a practical joke. You know, in the 18th century they had head lice, body odour and rotten teeth; but they dressed fabulously and took dancing lessons. For them a big funny joke would be to kick a dwarf in the head. That's not so funny any more, but the point of this story is to make Juno jealous of Jupiter in order to reunite them. So the set-up is to have him fall in love with Platée, this hideously ugly swamp thing, who is played by a man, as it always was. It's a role for

a very high tenor, a voice that's not used much outside of barbershop quartets.

"It is this royal wedding where the bride herself just happens to be rather ugly. She is haughty and horny and powerful. It's like a carnival show in that it deals with the grotesque and the embarrassing."

Shaking his head and giggling, Morris admits that this is a very strange score with "lots of frogs and cuckoos and stuff like that written into the music". As with *L'Allegro*, his dance company will be taking a major part in the performances.

The morning after our interview in downtown Manhattan, Morris was due to fly to St Lucia to continue work on the script for a Broadway-bound musical, called *The Capeman*. It has a score by Paul Simon and is based on the true story of a desperate Latino who vainly tried to make it in the United States.

"You know," Morris admits, "I've turned down dozens of Broadway offers, but this one is different. We started by making a list of everything we hated about Broadway musicals and then set ourselves a goal of trying to figure out

how to succeed without using a single one of those clichés."

His own company is not involved in the Broadway show. They will be busy performing at the Barbican while he is in the final stages of rehearsals. "My dancers are very special. Some of them, we call them the ancient régime, have been with me for 17 years. Mature dancers are better. All right, part of your job as a dancer is to be obedient, to follow commands; but if that's all you're doing, it quickly becomes boring."

"With my lot, well, maybe they're not so fast or so hard or so whiz-

bang as a kid could be, but, frankly, I'm not interested in death-defying. I want fabulous, beautiful artistry. I'm not interested in dancers as Kleenex. I'm not a director who says 'Oh, I need another cute blond for this part who fits this costume.' No, that's not what it's about if you wanna make art. OK, I admit that's what I do. You have to get beyond that terrifying sense of 'youth culture', and that's what I do," Morris coos with a smile worthy of a Buddha. "Embrace it. Use it. That's how you win."

● *L'Allegro* opens at the Coliseum (0171-632 8300) on Thursday

Madness on the mean streets

THE characters in Belgian choreographer Alain Platel's *La Tristezza Complice*, presented at the South Bank as part of the Turning World festival, are riding a rollercoaster of painful emotions. Even without a translation of the title — *A Shared Sorrow* — it is immediately obvious that his

disparate collection of the disabled and the dysfunctional is united by sadness.

The setting is a city street, the men and women familiar sights in the modern urban landscape — the kind of weirdos you cross the road to avoid. There is a semi-naked rollerskating skinhead, an en-

DANCE
La Tristezza Complice
Queen Elizabeth Hall

raged transvestite, a plain Jane clutching her handbag like a terrified rabbit. A brief moment of lucidity introduces them, but they quickly disintegrate into chaos, spinning out of control like inmates in a mental institution who have escaped their minders.

The graceful choreography grows out of the characters' strange behaviour: repetitive, violent, sexually aggressive, self-damaging, incoherent and fevered. Bodies are broken and reassembled into misshapen curiosities, duets are murderously athletic, and academic dance is perverted by some heavyhanded mimicking. The movement is in

stark contrast to the meticulous order and harmony of Purcell's music, scored — rather bizarrely, but also rather effectively — for ten accordions and a female singer (the handbag-clutching Euridike De Beul).

The style of movement, both naturalistic and quirkily metaphorical, could grow wearying were it not for the superb actor-dancers in Platel's Ghent-based company, Les Ballets C de la B. The portraits they draw of their individual characters are so focused and sympathetic that they suck you into their centre of pain.

Platel delivers his theatre straight. It is a dismal world out there on the street, but one where a little friendly tenderness can offer comfort to the wounded. You may be crazy, Platel is saying, but you are not alone.

DEBRA CRAINE

Too much too young

OPERA

Ariodante
St Clement Danes

HANDEL, as performed by the Opera Theatre Company of Dublin, has long been a welcome feature of the BOC Covent Garden Festival, and it is good that with the absence of the Irish team this year the management should have persisted, and engaged the young Early Opera Company for three sell-out performances of *Ariodante*. It is a pity that a less familiar work was not chosen: *Ariodante* has had much exposure recently, and comparisons are unavoidable. There is always pleasure in hearing fresh, well-schooled young voices tackling Handel, but capability on its own is not quite enough: there are untold depths of human feeling to be plumbed, and Wednesday's first night was more a matter of te-dipping than plunging in headlong. Similarly with the young period instrument players — all perfectly capable, but not quite avoiding the impression of saw-saw-saw, chug-along Handel.

Sarah Alexander's production is minimal. It is not quite enough to put the cast in 18th-century frocks and let them get on with it; a coherent dramatic-visual style has to be devised, and then executed consistently. Richard Aylwin's set was a large reflective

translucent panel, with many through-a-glass-darkly effects, to little discernible purpose. Again, there has been too much inventively staged Handel recently for this to wash.

There were no significant cuts and the dance music was included which, given the absence of dancers, was a curious decision. Some of the cast enunciated Amanda Holden's translation as if the words meant something, others just enunciated. Christine Rice made an engaging smiling-damned-villain of Polinesio, her chewing of a peach at the start of the second act splendidly insolent. Jenni Bern sparkled confidently as her dupe, Dalinda, and Louise Mott relished Ariodante's virtuosos numbers. One advantage of casting a woman in this castrato role should have been less spectacularly wrinkled stockings, but perhaps chaps — at least emaculated ones — are better at these things after all.

RODNEY MILNES

IRISH THEATRE

Poetic barn dance

THE stony, grey soil of Monaghan celebrated in the poetry of Patrick Kavanagh provides fertile ground for the latest, probably greatest adaptation of the writer's autobiographical novel, *Tarry Flynn*, by Dublin's Abbey Theatre.

Kavanagh's text provides all the linguistic sparkle any adapter might need, from luminous poetic reverie to sprightly Wildean epigram. Nevertheless Conal Morrison, who has adapted and now directs, has enhanced Kavanagh's literary gems with settings of rambunctious, madly playful theatricality.

Tarry Flynn (James Kennedy), the only male in a small farming family, is bucking under the strain of tending potatoes, while fantasising about writing poetry and seducing the local girls. In truth, the idea of even saying hello to one of the objects of his affection sends him into a sweaty fluster.

Noticing the new energy in Irish contemporary dance, an inspired Morrison has siphoned off all the talent he needs, and has given a choreographer David Bolger his head.

The show is bracingly blatant about its first priority: entertainment. The cast leap and climb around their farmyard as though at work in a big top, trapdoors pop to reveal ghostly bishops and saints, hidden compartments swing open to release sexual fantasy, cast members play chickens, a snarling, anti-clerical hound — and even a new-born calf.

Kennedy makes a powerfully attractive Tarry, but everybody on stage pulls their weight.

If the production has its faults, they are mainly the faults of flagrant theatrical ambition.

LUKE CLANCY

THE ROYAL OPERA

Opens Today

ERDI FESTIVAL

30 May - 10 July

Simon Boccanegra (1881)
(LIMITED AVAILABILITY)

Rigoletto
(LIMITED AVAILABILITY)

Macbeth (1847)
New Production

Simon Boccanegra (1857)
New Production (DAY SEATS AND RETURNS ONLY)

Oberto in concert

5 June Royal Opera House, 9 June Royal Festival Hall 0171-960 4242

Festival Events:
Vend Festival Quiz on 2 June at 7.30pm to 2.30pm
Quiz Master: Bamber Gascoigne
Team Captains: Mark Elder and Edward Downes
Plus a host of playreadings, study days and pre-performance talks
For information contact 0171-212 9540

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE • 0171-304 4000

CHICHESTER festival THEATRE 97

MINERVA STUDIO THEATRE

4 June - 21 June

NOCTURNE FOR LOVERS

By Brian Wilton
English version by Gavin Lambour
STARRING
David Abramowitz
Leslie Caron

27 June - 12 July

TALLULAH!

By Sandra Ryan Huxworth
STARRING
Kathleen Turner

16 July - 9 August

SUZANNA ANDLER

By Marguerite Duras
Translated by Barbara Bray
STARRING
Julie Christie
Aden Gillett

15 August - 6 September

MISALLIANCE

By Bernard Shaw
STARRING
Joss Ackland
Tony Britton
Natalia Makarova

10 September - 27 September

ELECTRA

By Sophocles
A new adaptation by Frank McCaffrey
STARRING
Zoe Wanamaker

1 October - 16 October

HOTEL SUITES

By Neil Simon
In association with the Young Group Theatre, Guildford

BOX OFFICE 01243 781312

Overnighter Hotel/Theatre package
01243 539435



POP 1
An audacious variety of sounds enlivens Ben Harper's third LP, *The Will To Live*



POP 2
Garry Christian strikes out on his own with the impressive debut release, *Your Cool Mystery*

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3
A recent No 1 hit rekindles interest in Olive's previously unsuccessful debut, *Extra Virgin*



POP 4
It's a perfect marriage of punk and heavy metal as Foo Fighters play live at London's Astoria

Hey Ben, where's Jimi?

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair thrills to Ben Harper's rare blend of spirituality with a hard rock edge

BEN HARPER
The Will To Live (Virgin Records America 7243 8 44178, £13.99)
WITH performers such as Keb' Mo', Corey Harris and Eric Bibb all on the way up, a new "black acoustic blues" movement seems to have coalesced around Ben Harper since the Californian singer and slide guitarist released his debut album in 1994. But it is Harper who continues to set the pace, stretching out in various new and unusual directions on his third LP, *The Will To Live*.

The straight acoustic numbers are, in fact, very much in the minority, and the album is dotted with an audacious variety of sounds, from the big guitar heroics and Arabic-style violin of *Glory and Consequence* to the breathtaking funkadelic horn-section arrangement of *Mama's Trippin'*. With his hippie/humanist lyrics ("Every moral has a story") and pleading vocal tone, there is something of the folk singer in Harper. But his rhythm section comprising Juan Nelson (bass) and the awesome Dean Butterworth (drums) are more obviously schooled in the power trio tradition of the Jimi Hendrix Experience, and never more evidently so than on the barnstorming finale of the title track, which sounds a bit like *Hey Joe*. It is a rare thrill to hear authentic, back-to-the-roots spirituality with such a hard, contemporary rock edge.

GARRY CHRISTIAN
Your Cool Mystery (Murray Field Music/Eastwest 0630-17527, £13.99)
THE Christians were always such a wet group, too old and earnest to be a proper pop band, but too lightweight to be taken very seriously. They quietly withered on the vine in the early 1990s, so it comes as something of a surprise now to find Garry Christian — the bald,

interesting-looking one — back with a solo debut.

Even more surprisingly, it is actually rather good. The ten new songs, all co-written by Christian and producer Andy Wright, have a gritty, British soul swagger, rather in the Roachford mould, but given a modern twist with odd, swirling effects and other, post-trip hop production touches.

"I dream my life away/But I don't sleep much," Christian sings on the title track, which has to be one of the great, unrequited love songs of this or any year.

OLIVE
Extra Virgin (RCA/BMG 74321481142, £13.49)
OLIVE'S surprise No 1 hit, *You're Not Alone*, has rekindled interest in the group's previously unsuccessful debut album, *Extra Virgin*, originally released last year.

The trio boasts a textbook combination of late-1990s talents, comprising keyboard player Tim Kellett (formerly of Simply Red, a keen pop ear), programmer Robin Taylor-Firth (dance/club credibility) and Ruth-Ann Boyle (skinny, spacey-looking singer with an arctic cool voice). And with its centre of gravity located somewhere between the mysterious underground noodlings of Portishead and the arch, girl-pop of Alisha's Attic, *Extra Virgin* is a collection of tremendous stylistic poise if rather less substance.

Timing is everything for a sound like this, and after several attempts, Olive have got the moment and the music in sync, at least. But apart from being overshadowed by *You're Not Alone*, the other songs, with the exception of *Miracle*, lack any broader sense of purpose.

PENTHOUSE
Gutter Erotica (World Domination/RTM WDOM34, £14.49)
SO MUCH of rock music pretends to be nasty while actually being rather nice. Not so *Gutter Erotica* by Penthouse, a huge, ugly, slobbering great brute of an album that will have an instantly purgative effect on your sound system.

Although loosely built on blues foundations, songs such as *Road Rash*, *Harmonic Surf Spastic* and *Gus' Neck* quickly establish a raging impetus that recalls the sonic extremism of Steve Albini's shortlived group Rapeman or, more recently, the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion.

And if you want something slow, then *La Grotte D'Amour*, with its distinct echoes of Led Zeppelin's *Dazed and Confused*, and *A Deviant Soiree* are songs that drag themselves across the speakers like some great desert beast slouching its way towards some hideously perverted nirvana.

Gutter Erotica is about as hardcore as rock'n'roll gets while still being recognisable as music. The amazing thing is that, although they had to go to America to get a recording contract, these guys come from North London. Strike one to those prissy, ironic, postmodern Brits.



Ben Harper with Juan Nelson (bass) and Dean Butterworth (drums), schooled in the power trio tradition of the Jimi Hendrix Experience

High octane rhythms

THE world of Khaled is steeped in drama. The Algerian-born singer, now one of the biggest stars in France, is under constant threat from Islamic fundamentalists offended by his dalliance with Western pop culture. Bomb warnings are a daily occurrence and Khaled's dilemma is that the greater his success, the more of a target he becomes for the extremists of the Front Islamique du Salut.

This one-off London date by the man they call "the king of raï" came in the middle of a hugely successful European tour, and the night security and a large crowd shoe-horned into a venue far too small made for a physically un-

WORLD MUSIC

Khaled
Astoria, WI

comfortable but electrically charged evening.

In Arabic, *raï* means discourse, but the word has come to signify the music of a young Algeria that openly challenges traditional Islamic society. Yet it is not necessary to know any of this to appreciate Khaled. His heady hybrid of Islamic-tinged vocals and Western rock accompaniment is exotic but highly commercial. While his voice never strays far from the kasbahs and souks of North Africa, the arrangements possess a finely tuned pop sensibility and his nine-piece band is as unrelenting as a fatwa.

He sings in Arabic and French but his danceable, high-octane rhythms speak a musical Esperanto and his influences are diverse. *Wahrans Wahrans* and *Demé Bessera* were full of compelling Maghreb mystery and menace. An extended version of *Aicha*, the haunting ballad which camped out at the top of the French charts for three months at the end of last year, owed something to its phrasing to the great French chansonnières. The reggae-tinged *Ouelli el Darek* showed that Bob Marley is just as big in Algeria as in the rest of the Third World.

Khaled is a dynamic performer and the crowd whooped, yelled and danced night since I saw the same show in Paris at the start of the year. When this venue is less than full, one can hear the trains on the Underground rumbling far below. On this occasion passengers on the Northern Line were more likely to have been disturbed by the sounds of a wild night abroad.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

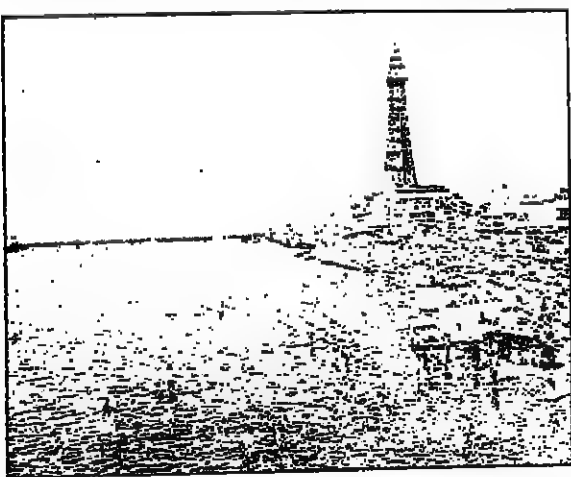
1	(-)	Open Road	Gary Barlow (RCA)
2	(2)	Spice	Spice Girls (Virgin)
3	(1)	Do It Yourself	Seahorses (Geffen)
4	(1)	Blood on the Dance Floor	Michael Jackson (Epic)
5	(3)	Flaming Pie	Paul McCartney (Parlophone)
6	(4)	Republica	Republica (Deconstruction)
7	(5)	White on Blonde	Texas (Mercury)
8	(40)	Romance	Andrea Bocelli (Philips)
9	(7)	Travelling Without Moving	Jamiroquai (Gory S)
10	(19)	Before the Rain	Eternal (EMI)

Copyright CMC

Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

READER OFFER THE TIMES

THE TIMES RAIL OFFER
FROM £5 TO
£20 RETURN



Collect 10 differently numbered tokens, eight from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*, and you can travel to one of more than 100 Virgin Trains destinations from as little as £5 to £20 return per person. The offer applies until September 27, 1997, and return tickets are valid for up to one month. Our offer divides the Virgin Trains network in Britain into four zones. You can make a return journey within a particular zone for only £5 return per person provided your entire journey is within the same zone. If any part of your proposed journey requires you to cross into another zone a further £5 for each zone must be added to the return-ticket price. If your journey

requires you to travel to another operator's area, the appropriate payment will have to be made.

HOW TO APPLY
Each household can apply for up to four return tickets but for each ticket you must have one completed application form plus 10 differently numbered tokens. You will receive a fulfilment pack with full booking details. Please do not call Virgin Trains or make inquiries at rail stations until you receive your pack.



Grunge storm-troopers go hell for leather



Foo Fighters deliver a thrilling dose of assault-course rock'n'roll at its physical finest

WHAT a dark horse Dave Grohl turned out to be. *David Sinclair* writes: From drummer in Nirvana to lead singer, guitarist and chief songwriter of Foo Fighters is a career move which still only seems plausible in retrospect. Now onto his second album with them, *The Colour and the Shape*, he has also become a frontman with a commanding stage presence. A wiry character with rubberised legs and a voice that alternated between an andy drawl and a piercing shriek, Grohl led his troops into an opening salvo of *Wind Up*, followed by *Wasshed* at the Astoria on Wednesday, and for a moment the idea that grunge had died with Kurt Cobain seemed faintly ridiculous.

A perfect marriage of punk and what used to be called heavy metal, the sound ricocheted round the hall while

Foo Fighters
Astoria, WI

bodies tumbled over each other in an abandoned orgy of physical release among the crowd in front of the stage. This massive output of energy by the fans was reciprocated on stage, particularly by stripped-to-the-waist drummer Taylor Hawkins, whose considerable musical talent was clearly supplemented by the strength and stamina of an endurance athlete. As a celebration of the sheer physicality involved in making music, this performance took some beating.

But it wasn't exclusively a case of triumph through force majeure. *Hey Johnny Park*, a slower song with a sensual chorus, was an early departure from the hell-for-leather format; the whimsical

harmony pop of the group's best-known hit, *Big Me*, was played with pleasantly understated affection; and the long, slow *February Stars* proved their most ambitious song, even if it did expose certain weaknesses in Grohl's voice and fell victim to the early verses to the feverish hum of excitement still coursing through the audience.

Inevitably though, it was the harder, faster songs, dispatched with the well-drilled precision of a dawn raid, that carried the day. From the pedalling, neo-Ramones stomp of *Monkey Wrench*, through the hyperactive tempo and bloodcurdling yells of *Enough Space* and on to the vast, strop-like climax of *New Way Home* and inevitable finale of *This Is A Call*, the momentum was overwhelming, resistance futile. A thrilling dose of assault-course rock'n'roll at its finest.

Rooted in sound tradition

LAMMAS
Sourcebook (EZY Records EFZ 1022)
FROM the opening bars, in which a flute and an acoustic guitar join in a rapid Breton dance before giving way to keening tenor saxophone, even before the plangent voice of Christine Tobin or the Uilleann pipes of Steafan Hannigan are heard on this, the quinner's fourth album, the sound is unmistakably Lammas's. Much has been made of their "fusion" of Celtic music and jazz, but on this recording, which concentrates on the assured interaction between the three founders — saxophonist/flautist Tim Garland, guitarist Don Paterson and drummer

JAZZ ALBUMS

Mark Fletcher, the band combine folkish purity with full-blooded improvisation so unconvincingly that the results sound wholly natural. Rooted in tradition (a setting of Burns's *Ae Fond Kiss* is a delight) yet thoroughly contemporary, *Sourcebook* is the band's finest album.

MADELEINE PEYROUX
Dreamland (Atlantic 7567-82946-2)
HAVING spent her late teens busking in Paris, and wowing critics and aficionados alike with her contribution to a Lincoln Center tribute to Duke

Ellington's film music, in which she sang *Saddest Tale* so affectingly that one observer said: "She might as well have been channeling Billie Holiday", Peyroux is something of a publicist's dream. The Holiday comparison aside, though — and she undoubtedly owes her timbre and phrasing to her great inspiration — Peyroux is that rarity, a singer who can leave her stamp on anything from Patsy Cline to Fats Waller material without a hint of contrivance, and as a result, could become not only the new Holiday, but the new kd lang or Mary Coughlan. An extraordinary debut.

CHRIS PARKER

Sound Advice

Call Freephone 0800 800 001

BT Internet



POP 5
Battle for the teen charts: from wannabe Sean Maguire, who hasn't hit the big time...



POP 6
...to Gary Barlow, who has, the world of boy-pop is proving there's more to life than the Spice Girls

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 7
Caitlin Moran travels to Tribal Gathering in pursuit of Kraftwerk, the godfathers of dance



POP 8
Three and a half years after disbanding the Fat Lady Sings, Ireland's Nick Kelly is back

Sex wars in pop's playground

Has the phenomenal success of the Spice Girls left any room for the glamour boys in the teen pop stakes? Alan Jackson reports



Hit and miss: Sean Maguire failed where Gary Barlow looks, for the moment at least, to be succeeding

It is hard not to feel sorry for Sean Maguire. Had he stuck to acting (he has been well reviewed for long-running roles in *EastEnders* and the drama series *Dangerfield*), his star might still be in the ascendancy. His mistake, though, was to want to be a pop hero, and, duly armed with a contract from Parlophone, he spent the best part of three years putting out records — hits, most of them, but at a heretofore-gone-tomorrow level of both sales and memorability — and performing to excitable live audiences lured, largely, by the presence of bigger, better names at the top of teen-appeal bills.

Perhaps because he so patently, nakedly wanted to be loved for his music, such as it is, a particular relish was taken in reporting his disappointments. There was the debut album which hardly anyone wanted to buy. The concert cancelled recently because the four tickets had been sold. The unhappy attempt to remodel his boy-next-door image into something more grown-up and contemporary with a last, unconvincingly Britpop-ish single release. And, finally, on the eve of his 21st birthday, a pairing of the ways with Parlophone — the lots of "Sean Sean Dumped By His Label" headlines.

Maguire's experience of the pop world could offer a salutary lesson to other wannabes. Wanting success — even achieving it, but in moderation — is not enough to satisfy the money men and win you a shot at longevity. As in any industry where image and fashion exert an influence, the magic combination is one of talent, marketability and, perhaps most important of all, felicitous timing. Maguire's misfortune was that he was attempting to sell his wares at exactly the time when a score of other male acts, group or solo, were jostling to benefit from Take That's demise. And many were less successful than he.

So has the concurrent emergence and, as yet, unstoppable rise of their female replacements, the ubiquitous Spice Girls, finally killed off the cover-version-loving, dance-routine-prone and generally vacuous entity that is boy-pop? Not according to Gavin Reeve, the editor of *Smash Hits*, a barometer of trends at this especially fickle end of the music scene. "The Spice Girls are already 100 times bigger than Take That ever

were," he says. "But what their success has done is newsworthy interest in pop music in general, 90 per cent of which is still made by boys. Currently, acts like the Backstreet Boys, 911, 3T and Damage are all getting Top Five hits, doing better than their equivalents were doing back when 'Take That' were at their peak."

Publicist Carolyn Norman supports the view that girl power has revitalised a tired genre. "They've

been a total breath of fresh air, and the market has exploded again as a result of what they've achieved. They certainly haven't put the tin lid on male acts, though — if anything, they've carried some of them along on their coat tails."

She should know, having been involved in Take That's launch, and worked subsequently with Bad Boys Inc and Gemini, two casualties of the boy-pop wars. Now she is looking

after No Mercy, a trio of Florida-based Cuban-Americans described by last week's *Top of the Pops* presenter Mark Radcliffe as looking like waiters, but who find this no handicap in regularly achieving the upper reaches of the charts.

The informed view — perhaps revelatory to those who observe the battle for the pocket-money vote only from a distance — is that even the youngest consumers are able to sort

out the wheat from the chaff. One observer, begging not to be named, cited the manufactured Upside Down as having caused the biggest dent in the image of boy-pop. "That BBC documentary about their launch harmed the whole market, making it look as if you could cynically pick four nice-looking blokes, put them in the recording studio, then sit back to wait for the money to pour in. It doesn't work like that. The punters may be young, but they're not so gullible."

Reeve's postbag is daily proof of this, and certainly his magazine has been scathing about those acts (poor Upside Down, even poorer Gemini) whom readers judge wanting. "We receive around 3,000 letters each week, and if 100 of those are saying that Gemini are rubbish then we will take note." And they did. "A Right Pair Of Arses" ran the headline after that duo's naked rears were pictured in the *Daily Star*. "Gemini hit rock bottom with even more bum notes," ran the copy. "Bleeeurgh! And again, heurrrrr! They've done the impossible — made Upside Down look like Oasis in the cred stakes."

Enough to make you think that Maguire has escaped lightly, with at least a parallel career into which to retreat. "The Spice Girls would never have got so far if the records weren't convincing," Reeve says. "You need a decent song, a good tune, before people will pay attention. And if you're good-looking and entertaining as well, you've got every chance in the world." Boyzone believe so, having succeeded Take That as our premier boy band. The latter's prime talent, Gary Barlow, certainly hopes so, as he bids to follow George Michael in turning teen-pop stardom into enduring adult appeal. Sadly, Maguire probably hoped and believed it too, but was without that aforementioned magic combination, in particular its crucial timing element.

That the line of hopefulness is unending is made clear by my own postbag. The day after I spoke to Norman, I received a press release about her latest charges, an all-male four-piece signed to Polydor. "Code Red have served their apprenticeship, wowed the world, and are about to Kick Ass," it reads. All in all, enough to make even a newly-dropped 21-year-old feel old.

JAZZ CONCERTS

Taking chances with freedom

IN A recent interview, the New York-based saxophonist Tim Berne encapsulated the problem facing those contemporary jazz musicians dissatisfied with conventional wisdom regarding structure in the music: "I don't want to know there's going to be a trumpet solo, then a bass solo, then a piano solo and then they all play the theme at the end... that's all been done 30, 40 years ago. What we do is take chances when we improvise. You don't know how a piece is going to end because we don't."

Two London concerts last weekend, one (at the Purcell Room) by Berne leading two groups, Bloodcount and Paraphrase, the other (at Blackheath Concert Halls) by the dozen of UK improvising pianists, Keith Tippett. In charge of the 21-piece big band Tapestry, demonstrated a variety of techniques for dealing with the issue.

Bloodcount, a quintet featuring Berne on alto and baritone, plus tenor, guitar, bass and drums, use written material, but in an unconventional manner. Rather than stating the written theme, improvising on it, then restating it, Bloodcount will either allow it to coalesce from its constituent elements in the middle of what sounds like free improvisation, or

CHRIS PARKER

Oh happy night

Manu Dibango Festival Hall

THOUGH no one escapes from a Manu Dibango concert without indulging in a few dance steps to the insidious beat of Soul Makossa, the presence of the Rev Basil Meade and his London Community Gospel Choir helped to make this more than an evening of greatest hits.

No matter that the partnership seemed under-rehearsed in places: this meeting of church and Afro-pop, funded by the British Council, has enormous potential.

Dibango's interest in religious music is no overnight phenomenon. Flick through the Cameroonian saxophonist's new compilation, *African Soul*, and you will find a contemporary gospel anthem, *Sunday Morning*, recorded almost 30 years ago in the company of Archie Franklin's sister, Carolyn. Before being sent to Paris to study — and to fall in love with the expatriate jazz of Sidney Bechet and Bud Powell — he sang in the choir of his local church.

Dibango could never be described as the most delicate of saxophonists: he evokes the visceral, crowd-pleasing aggression of his

early idol, the ill-fated American tenor player King Curtis. It may be a limited formula, but it remains a powerful one none the less, particularly when Dibango chose to bounce riffs against the combined voices of the LCGC. If much of today's over-produced gospel recordings resemble watered-down Luther Vandross, Meade and his colleagues deliver the old-time, hand-clapping inspiration.

The compact but no less imposing four-piece band stoked up a sleep reggae pulse on *Elong*. Earlier Dibango had opened in an unusually restless mood with a series of seductive saxophone phrases constructed atop the swelling, hymn-like organ chords of his keyboard player and arranger, Frédéric Gaillardet.

At the close there were no surprises about the choice of encore, but it is a long time since I have heard *Oh Happy Day* sung with quite as much abandon.

CLIVE DAVIS

Swept into the maelstrom

A Tribal Gathering is just the place to test the potential of dance music

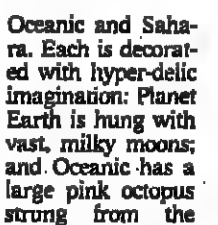
Me and dance music get on like cats and peanuts — I'm aware that it exists, I can understand fully why others may gorge themselves: I've even cautiously sniffed it a couple of times, but I still can't quite work out how I would consume it. My teeth are the wrong shape for grinding it, or something.

But mindful of a book on the history of the Renaissance, wherein it was detailed that the majority of Venetians thought all the new poetry, literature and art were a load of new-fangled bobbins, I became determined to embrace all that is new and current. Last Saturday's Tribal Gathering — the techno Glastonbury — seemed to be the ideal place to start. It's in the grounds of Luton Hoo, has all the leading luminaries of dance from the past 20 years playing, and the weather was forecast to be mighty fine.

The first notable difference is that dance people dress up

and hurt themselves into partying. The average rock festival is full of skinny boys and big girls, all dressed in faded black, talking about how much their parents, like, really screwed them up. Tribal Gathering is full of kids, kids debating whether to go on the Dodge now and dance later, or whether it's better to simply dance on the Dodge. One boy had painted his head, hair and neck in blue camouflage; there were girls with tinsel, tiaras and baubles knitted into their hair; and the odd, footballer disco chick tottering around in strappy red plastic sandals and a silver miniskirt. I felt rather drab in sky-blue PVC and a Mary Poppins hat.

"Tribal", as it is called with gum-chewing briskness, is split into five tents. Planet Earth, Trans-Europe, Arctic



CAITLIN MORAN

Oceanic and Sahara. Each is decorated with hyper-detailed imagination: Planet Earth is hung with vast, milky moons; and Oceanic has a large pink octopus strung from the centre, with its tentacles wound around the internal scaffolding. Planet Earth is the temporary home of Icelandic electro troubadours Gus Gus — a nine-piece collective from Reykjavik. Of the two lead singers, the 16-year-old Hafdis is the screamingly obvious future star — her cartoon-like, obsidian-eyed beauty is in-

creased a thousand-fold by a range of minxy, Ren and Stimpy-like facial expressions as she dances. The bass causes your spine to fold in on itself and implode — just in time for Hafdis to bring calm with her serene lullabying. So far, dance music is great.

Crossing over the field to the Octopus tent, it's time for Cornershop. Once Third Division indie caterwaulers, the Asian five-piece have spent the past year touring America, soaking up hip-hop, funk and rap. As a result, Cornershop

are a biblical-sized revelation — dizzy star mantras are undercut with booming hip-hop beats and a sense of eclectic reveling; it's a Beck-like gumbo of joyful experimentalism all kept tight by that fist-like drum and bass. I start to believe I've found a way to chew the peanut of dance music.

With night falling like a weary crow, we hie ourselves over to the Trans-Europe tent. Even though it's still two hours until Kraftwerk come onstage, their legend is such that we still have to fight through the waiting crowds to get anywhere near the front. It's not surprising — Kraftwerk are the godfathers of dance. It was 1978's *Trans Europe Express* — based on an imaginary train journey, and the incessant rhythm of the wheels — that revolutionised

Writer Nick Kelly meets the other Nick Kelly — an Irish pop survivor now making a level-headed comeback

One-man band on a trapeze

Let's get this straight from the start. This writer is not, nor has ever been, the same Nick Kelly who fronted the Fat Lady Sings. I would have remembered.

Conversely, the Nick Kelly who did front that band — one of the most respected Irish rock acts of the 1980s — swears he has never filed copy to *The Times* in his life. In fact, he works as a copywriter in an advertising agency in Dublin, far from the maddening music industry crowd — who nearly drove him off the rails.

Now, three and a half years after he disbanded the group, he returns with a new album. That he has no desire to give up the day job is indicative of his reluctance to go through the industry treadmill again. "You can feel really insecure

when you're with record companies and trying to get your music on the radio," he says. "You worry about things like whether you're fitting in with the zeitgeist and whether you're attractive or interesting enough."

"If you're on a major label, they have expectations of you and then it becomes quite hard to say 'I don't want to do this or I don't want to do that'. Making videos was the part of the job that I had no interest in. If I was a cook, it would be

like cleaning the gibles out of the chicken."

The Fat Lady Sings' record company, EastWest, was as shocked as Kelly's band mates when he decided that the show must not go on. *Drunkard Logic*, grating the Top 50 of the UK singles chart, had just registered as the band's biggest success. But the London-based label must have been frustrated that the plaudits heaped on the Fat Lady Sings' two albums, *Twist* and *Johnston*, had not translated into cash sales. Nevertheless, the band had built up a sizeable fan base in the UK and Ireland by the time they split up, boasting a mailing list with an estimated 7,000 addresses.

"To receive unsolicited letters from people who don't have to like you but do is very touching, because artists in general are just as insecure as they are arrogant," Kelly says. "Creativity is not born out of confidence but insecurity; it's a question, not an answer. There's always a part of you that's saying 'Please like me, please justify my existence'."



Nick Kelly: "On a major label, they have expectations"

It was the loyalty of these admirers upon which Kelly drew when it came to financing his first solo album, *Between Trapezes*, which was released this month. Loath as he was to cede artistic control of the project, Kelly by-passed the usual route of record company funding and raised the necessary money by writing to his fans and getting them to invest in its recording. In return for sending the retail price of the album to Kelly by post, each was guaranteed not

just a copy of the CD on its completion but a mention on the sleeve notes as well.

In securing independent distribution for the album in the UK, the final piece of the jigsaw fell into place. Appropriately Kelly named his label, on which he is the sole artist, Self-Possessed Records.

Indeed, an apposite title would be *Do It Yourself* — but the Seahorses have already got that base covered. As it is, *Between Trapezes* is just as apt a name for an album that

The Cripple Inishua

a new play by Martin McDonagh

Raw, humorous and brilliant in its brutality, this wonderful play is in the finest tradition of Irish writing.

Nicholas Hytner's expert, very funny and brilliantly cast production.

Presented in association with ANU, Dundee

Exeter Theatre: Tonight & Mon 2 June at 7.30pm
May & Tues 3 June at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing

NT National Box Office 0171 928 2252
Teagire First Call 0171 420 0000

[illegible]

EDUCATION

Who respects teachers?

We made teaching
a working-class
trade, not a
profession, says
Martin Stephen

Nowhere is the influence of England's history more damning and caustic than in the status of teaching and teachers. In England, English culture does not respect teachers, it merely needs them. To say that this is because teachers are not highly paid is to put the chicken before the egg. It is because teachers are not highly regarded that they are not highly paid. Some of the reasons for this — perhaps even most of them — lie in history.

We made a serious mistake when we created our first state educational system in the 1870s and 1880s. We went for the cheap option in that, in a class-ridden society, blue-collar workers would accept the apparent promotion to white-collar status as part of their payment. Working-class recruits were cheap and there in large numbers. There was no outcry from the chattering classes: middle and upper-class children were safely hived off to public schools, so what could be more apt than working-class children being taught by working-class teachers?

In Germany, a different course was taken, with appointments to key posts going to those from highly respected universities. Hence the title of "Herr Professor" was given to teachers, which commanded respect in the community. We made teaching a working-class trade, not a profession. It has suffered ever since.

It is easy to view teaching as a lowly occupation. Everyone thinks that they can teach a bit and everyone thinks they know about schools — after all, most adults do some of the former with their children, and all of them went to school for up to 13 years. I know plenty of people who reckon that they could knock some sense into a Ridings class but who would never dream of sitting in a GP's surgery and doing his or her job.

Viewing teaching as a rather lowly trade is, therefore, easy. I remember Bob the decorator. He could do the wallpaper, slap on the emulsion and do a reasonable job with the gloss, but I knew I could do it almost as well if only I had the time. Instead, I paid him to do it, and patronised him every time I brought him a mug of tea. People do the same to teachers all the time.

Another more recent and disastrous mistake was the creation of teacher training colleges. Scotland has far more respect for teachers than England. This also has much to do with that country's history, and in particular their decision for many years not to allow anyone to enter teaching who did not have a degree from an established university. The result was that immediate status was conferred on all those who taught. Our chosen path was to create special "colleges" for teachers, which subsequently offered a "special" degree, the BEd. For many years, academics at recognised universities were reduced either to apoplexy or tears of laughter at the academic standard required for these "degrees".

In one instance, a first-year university mathematics paper proved too difficult for



Class distinction: the Victorians made the first mistake by seeing teaching as an option for working-class boys made good

the final-year undergraduates in a BEd mathematics degree and had to be watered down. In another, a mild-mannered don from Durham University's English department was an external moderator and failed over half of the final-year English specialists at a leading college. He was told that he simply could not do that sort of thing. They all passed. The don resigned.

Not all training colleges were bad, of course. Loughborough, for example, put PE on the map as a specialist subject almost single-handedly. But overall, teacher training colleges and the BEd sent out a statement that teaching was for those who could not get into a good university. Even though training colleges have now been converted into departments of universities, in many the culture has not changed. What a double historical whammy: the Victorians seeing teaching as an option for working-class boys made good, and the postwar period seeing it as a course for those who could not get a proper degree.

The answer? First, we must pay teachers more and make the job more worthwhile — but it is far easier to do that if entry to teaching is restricted at secondary level to those with decent A levels and a demanding degree from a

demanding university. Teachers with an MA, MSc or a PhD get a pathetic increment for their pains. It discourages the best brains from entering teaching, and is no incentive for teachers to feed their brains. However, paying teachers higher salaries also means that they must be held more accountable, like other professions.

Second, the Government's promise of a General Teacher Council must mean the creation of a professional organisation to control teaching and have some say on standards in the profession, just as lawyers have the Law Society and doctors the British Medical Association. If the Government can give control of the economy to the Bank of England, it can give control of teaching to teachers.

Third, it should be recognised that the one career guaranteed not to be well represented at a school's careers fair is teaching. Young people should be targeted for a career in teaching while they are still at school. In particular, there should be secondment schemes whereby potential teachers can work for a period in industry so that they come into teaching with experience of the real world, respect from the community and a sympathy for

industry. Fourth, those who seek to join the inspectorate are often those who have failed to make any great success of their teaching careers and seek an alternative career in inspection. The inspectorate should have at its core the best teachers who are seconded to inspect for one, two or three-year terms, thereafter being allowed back into school with their perception of education enhanced as much as their career prospects.

None of these proposals will wipe out the bad effects of history but they might allow some of them to be neutralised.

Dr Martin Stephen is High Master of Manchester Grammar School

Change a child's life with music

Dalya Alberge on the composer behind a foundation supplying musical instruments

A LEADING American film music composer is planning to set up a foundation that will allow cash-strapped British schools to buy and repair instruments for their pupils.

Michael Kamen, whose scores have been heard in blockbusters such as the *Die Hard* movies and *101 Dalmatians*, and who has also written for rock stars David Bowie and Eric Clapton, says: "If we can get instruments into kids' hands, we might keep weapons and drugs out of them. We might be able to introduce them to a world that will change their lives."

The foundation will donate some \$250,000 (£156,000) a year to the cause. "I was raised in an era when the school system cared enough about the students to provide them with the tools for learning," says Kamen, "whether it was with maths books, wood, a vat of clay or musical instruments. That's all gone."

Earlier this year, he established a similar foundation in America: the Mr Holland Opus Foundation, a charitable organisation. The inspiration for it came from *Mr Holland's Opus*, a 1995 film starring Richard Dreyfuss, for which Kamen wrote the music. It tells the story of an inspirational teacher who, after 30 years at a school, is forced by budget cuts to retire. His pupils club together and, in a surprise homage, arrange the first performance of his symphony.

Kamen, who divides his year between America and Britain, educated his own children in England. On both sides of the Atlantic, he began to realise that Hollywood had reflected true life in schools today: "If they don't fire teachers outright, they don't hire new ones if someone retires. They have eliminated hours from the day."

On a visit to his old school in New York, a school "filled with Mr Holland's", he had been shocked when a teacher showed him a room packed with broken, sad instruments. He had to give something back and, with help from the corporate sector, set up the foundation with Dreyfuss.

As budgets are cut further, schools increasingly place learning a musical instrument further down the list of priorities. A MORI survey last year revealed a nationwide shortfall of more than 700,000 instruments, including 117,000 recorders, 60,000 electronic keyboards, 38,000 guitars and 30,000 flutes. Music tuition was increasingly dependent on the parents' ability to pay.

However, research from Switzerland last year found that music actually helped children to develop their language skills. A three-year study involving 1,200 children aged between seven and 15 found that those who took extra music lessons were noticeably better at languages: younger children saw their reading improve.

That was because the way children learn music has parallels with the way in which they learn a language: listening and repeating what they hear. Learning to play an instrument improved that ability.

The composer says: "Mr Holland in the film made a difference to his kids. In the real world, it is up to all of us." He adds: "We can't change the curriculum and the supply of schoolteachers. But we can step in and supply them with instruments. That's an achievable goal, but a big task."

THE AMERICAN foundation invites schools to contact it and fill out a questionnaire describing what they need. It is run by three retired teachers, one of whom taught Kamen.

The American organisation is, Kamen says, "doing very well. We've given a fair number of instruments away." Each year, the composer hopes to see the foundation assist another 50 to 75 schools and introduce children "to a world that will change their lives".

One child wrote to them describing how life at home was so unbearable that music was the only thing that kept him sane. Kamen hopes that he can help British children from next January.

Kamen: "tools for learning"

Video conferencing can help child therapy, writes David Charter

Technology developed by international companies for global boardroom links is being adapted to cut the costs of specialist teaching for schools.

Video conferencing, already used by some enterprising schools to link up with pupils overseas to develop foreign language skills, will help younger children struggling with the basics of communication itself.

Video conferencing involves a screen and video camera in two or more locations, enabling people in each place to converse and see each other as if they were in the same room. Widely used for business meetings, a trial project is being launched today to help speech therapists to stay in regular contact with the growing number of children with speech disorders.

The national education charity I CAN estimates that there are 35,000 children aged four and under with communication problems who can benefit from regular therapy. It can be difficult and costly for a school to continue giving them the help they need when they move to their local primary, because of the time needed for regular visits to a speech therapist for guidance both for the child and their teacher.

I CAN, an acronym that originally stood for Invalid Children's Aid Nationwide when it was founded as a charity in 1988, and which now concentrates on helping children to overcome communication difficulties, has won government funding to test the use of video conferencing in continuing the specialist help.

The charity's nursery in Salisbury will be linked up with four schools around the city for the Teach Speech project, helping up to 20 children. Alison Barker, of I CAN, says: "Whenever you start moving people around

The speaking window of opportunity



Kyle Payne and Nicky Cooper linked to a speech therapist

there is a huge amount of time wasted. It has been calculated that when you take a child out of school to visit a specialist, they actually lose an hour's education just waiting around and travelling.

There is also the fact that speech therapist charges of £80-£100 an hour include travelling time from school to school. Video conferencing will cut out these costs.

"The aim is also to deliver high quality therapy," Ms Barker adds. "A therapist will probably serve an extremely wide area and spend a awful lot of time travelling and seeing children on a very sporadic basis. Their liaison with a school would usually be by letter or telephone."

The video link means the

therapist is always accessible. This is especially helpful if the teacher finds the child is making progress a lot quicker than expected and needs to ask the therapist to adapt their programme of work. We predict that our therapist will be able to serve four times as many children in the same amount of time."

The expertise of the therapist will also be passed on to teachers and helpers in the schools themselves. Nicky Cooper, an educational support assistant at St Martin's infant school in Salisbury, says the help given to her to work with three children has been invaluable.

"It gives me a weekly link that I would not normally have," she says. "I can take the

work the children have been doing and show the speech therapist. She gives us her advice on what to do, then it is up to us to use that advice as best we can."

This three-year trial project is being assessed by researchers from the University of Glasgow who will monitor whether the children make better progress and whether their schools and teachers find it as satisfactory as the previous system of personal, but less frequent, appointments.

The £230,000 cost has been met by a grant from the Department of Trade and Industry and I CAN, with expert help from BT. Engineers from the telecom company's laboratories in Ipswich, Suffolk, have been working to adapt the equipment from boardroom use, where the microphones and cameras are needed to relay a group meeting, to the noisy nursery setting, where it is important to pick up very clearly the sounds and facial movements of therapist and child.

Hardware for each school is estimated to cost £15,000, which sounds a lot, but is less than the annual £30,000 cost of sending a child to a specialist residential school rather than remaining in their local primary.

Ms Barker says: "This means the therapist can come to the child rather than the child to the therapist. The intention is to prove not only that this is suitable and a beneficial way to provide certain therapy services, but to show it is cost-effective for local education authorities."

Nicky Cooper adds: "Video conferencing could also be of use to occupational therapists or physiotherapists who could show what they require to be done with the child or demonstrate games or exercises for them. The potential is huge."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

21



THE GREAT FORD GIVE-AWAY.

21 cars from Ford's entire range must be won.
See The Sunday Times this Sunday for details of the greatest car promotion ever.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

FOOTBALL: EUROPEAN CUP FINAL DEFEAT SUGGESTS DAYS OF ONE-CLUB DOMINANCE MAY BE OVER

Juventus 'dynasty' turns to dust

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

THEY had taken to the restaurants and the beer cellars to try to forget, but in the bright light of early morning, reality came flooding back for Juventus fans yesterday. Sprawled, half asleep, on rows of chairs as they waited for their flights at Munich airport, they were trying to take in how their team, supposedly unbeatable, had surrendered the European Cup.

Few, even among the neutrals and the experts, had seen it coming. Most had predicted a comfortable Juventus victory to go with the clutch of trophies already in their cabinet. It was thought that they would win at a canter and become only the ninth team to retain the prize.

If anything is to be learnt from events in the Olympic Stadium here on Wednesday night, though, and Borussia Dortmund's 3-1 victory — courtesy of two fine finishes from Karl-Heinz Riedle and a marvellous chip by Lars Ricken — it is that "repeating", as the Americans are fond of calling it, may be on the verge of dying out.

This Juventus team, the team of Zidane, Deschamps, Del Piero and Boksic, was supposed to be just the start of a great dynasty, a team that would emulate the feats of the great AC Milan team of Baresi, Gullit and Van Basten, a team that would dominate European football until the end of the century.

Admittedly, they had an off-night in front of a 70,000 crowd, and it would be utterly folly to suggest that they will not bounce back next year. They have, after all, just secured the Serie A title again. Their failure, though, against a team packed with players who once graced their colours, was a neat reminder that the freedom of movement brought about by the Bosman ruling, coupled with the vast amounts of money swelling clubs' coffers, are beginning to mitigate against prolonged dominance by one team, just as the development of free agency has done in the National Football League in the United States.

Juventus will be back in the Champions' League next season and are bound to be among the favourites, but even domestically the competition will be tougher for them. They may lose such players as Deschamps and Del Piero, who scored their goal on Wednesday. At the same time, they are likely to be facing an Internazionale side bolstered by the £50 million signing of Ronaldo from Barcelona and a Milan team strengthened by the recruitment of Patrick Kluivert from Ajax.

There have always been changes from year to year, of course but, increasingly, the best players are concentrated at the top clubs, which have money to burn and few commodities to lavish it on.

Liam Brady, who had played so fluently in the black and white stripes of Juventus during his distinguished Italian sojourn, stressed that point as he walked among the disconsolate supporters at the airport. Now Arsenal's head of youth development, Brady is still one of the most thoughtful and knowledgeable commentators on the modern game and his trip to Germany had included a visit to Bayern Munich's training facilities on the outskirts of the city.

Brady said that he had chatted with his old friend and Inter team-mate, Karl-Heinz Riedle, who assumes much of the responsibility for Bayern's transfer dealings. "He says it's getting really tough," Brady said. "The Spanish, in particular, are coming on strong, really strong, searching for players."

"There is a lot of competition for the best players now, a lot of money at a lot of clubs. The last team to really dominate were AC Milan, but it is going to be hard for anyone to emulate them. There is more strength more widely spread."

"Juventus will get hammered in the Italian papers, but anyone can have an off-day. I think maybe they were built up to be more than they are, but they are still an excellent team. It was just that Dortmund were on top of their game and Juve were not."



Deschamps could be one of the first casualties of Juventus's surprise reverse

Dortmund's chances of staying right at the top appear slimmer than Juventus's. Packed with internationals, their team, nevertheless, featured just one player who was under 25 — Ricken, the substitute, who scored with his first touch.

Riedle and Chapuisat, who played with the same almost telepathic understanding that has helped to make Alan Shearer and Teddy

Sheringham such an effective pair for England, have been dogged by injuries this season and Riedle, in particular, is in the autumn of a fine career.

Matthias Sammer, the European footballer of the year, who is everyone's model sweeper, is rumoured to be on the verge of being driven into retirement because of injury, and Jürgen Kohler, ever resolute in defence, may only have

one more season at the top left in him. Even Paul Lambert, the Scotland midfielder player, felled by Dortmund from Motherwell as one of the Bosman free agents, has talked about being home-sick.

That may change now that his club are champions of Europe, but the pace of the progress of others may find them out when they attempt to defend their crown next season.

Brighton's future remains in doubt

By BRIAN GRAYNELL

BRIGHTON are still in peril. The club, which avoided relegation from the Nationwide League third division on the last day of the season, could yet be voted out when the league's annual meeting takes place next month.

Alarmingly little progress seems to have been made in acquiring a new stadium in which to play next season, now that the Goldstone Ground, the club's home since 1902, has been sold to developers.

A ground-sharing scheme with Gillingham remains a possibility, although the more likely alternative is a move to the nearby dog track in Hove. However, it appears that no work has been done on the stadium in the past five weeks. Dick Knight, who was hailed as the club's saviour when he became chairman, has refused to comment.

If the League is not satisfied with Brighton's assurances when it meets on June 14 and 15, it is possible that clubs could give the necessary 75 per cent support to moves to expel them.

Mohamed Al Fayed, who succeeded Jimmy Hill as chairman of Fulham, the newly-promoted second division club. The chairman of Harrods, who has also become the club's major shareholder, yesterday promised to invest heavily in Fulham and restore it "to its former glory".

Al Fayed said: "I am delighted to have this opportunity to invest in such a great and historic football club. I am totally committed, both personally and financially, to the plans for the revival of the club."

Sheffield Wednesday have announced a ticket scheme that will allow children to see the majority of FA Cup Premier League matches at Hillsborough free next season. Under the scheme, two adults can take two children under 16 for free, and four more can go for half price.

BADMINTON

Dong Jiong forced out through illness

By RICHARD EATON

THOMAS STUER, the 1995 men's singles bronze medal-winner, now has a reasonable chance of collecting another world championship medal after the Essex-based Dane was given a walkover to the quarter-finals by the withdrawal of the top-seeded All-England champion, Dong Jiong, in Glasgow yesterday.

The Chinese player was taken to hospital with a temperature of 40 degrees Centigrade and advised by a doctor no longer to try to compete with a fever with which he has been struggling since Tuesday. Dong was so clearly the best player in the team event last week that the potential moral boost is considerable to the second-seeded Danish Olympic champion, Poul-Erik Hoyer, who now lives in Milton Keynes.

Hoyer and Stuer often practise with the England squad, but the English themselves again failed to deliver, and Simon Archer is once more in

trouble after making an obscene gesture during a second round men's doubles defeat. Last week he was reprimanded for using foul language to a steward. Yesterday Archer made a gesture to his opponents as he and Chris Hunt, once the European champions, were beaten 18-13, 15-3 by the third best Danish pair of Jens Eriksen and Kenneth Larsen.

The umpire apparently did not see it, but Steve Baddeley, the England manager, did. "I am going to have a meeting with Archer about this and several incidents which took place here," he said.

There was some consolation with a good second-round win for John Quinn and Nick Ponting, who beat the No 6 seeds Lee Wan Wah and Choong Tan Fook of Malaysia, 15-11, 15-12. They were skilful as the net and clever in the way they slowed the pace down. It was quite a relief amidst the English disasters.

CYCLING

Obree absence leaves title race wide open

BRITAIN will have a new 25-mile time trial champion on Sunday after Graeme Obree, the winner last year, announced that he will not be defending his title, even though his form is "reasonable".

Obree says that, without a Sports Council National Lottery grant, he cannot afford to devote time to train, properly for, and compete in, domestic and international events.

Obree's absence leaves the race wide open on a course near Yarm, North Yorkshire, with a mix of the old and new among the field of 130 certain to put an extra edge to competition.

Not many domestics return for a second year at the title 17 years after winning. Scotland's Graeme Bell is

gives every impression he will be among the medals. He won the Tour de France time trial stage in 1988 and, in his first full season in Britain since retiring from international road racing, has already won 14 events.

For someone now 37, that is sufficient to impress many of his potential challengers who are almost half his age.

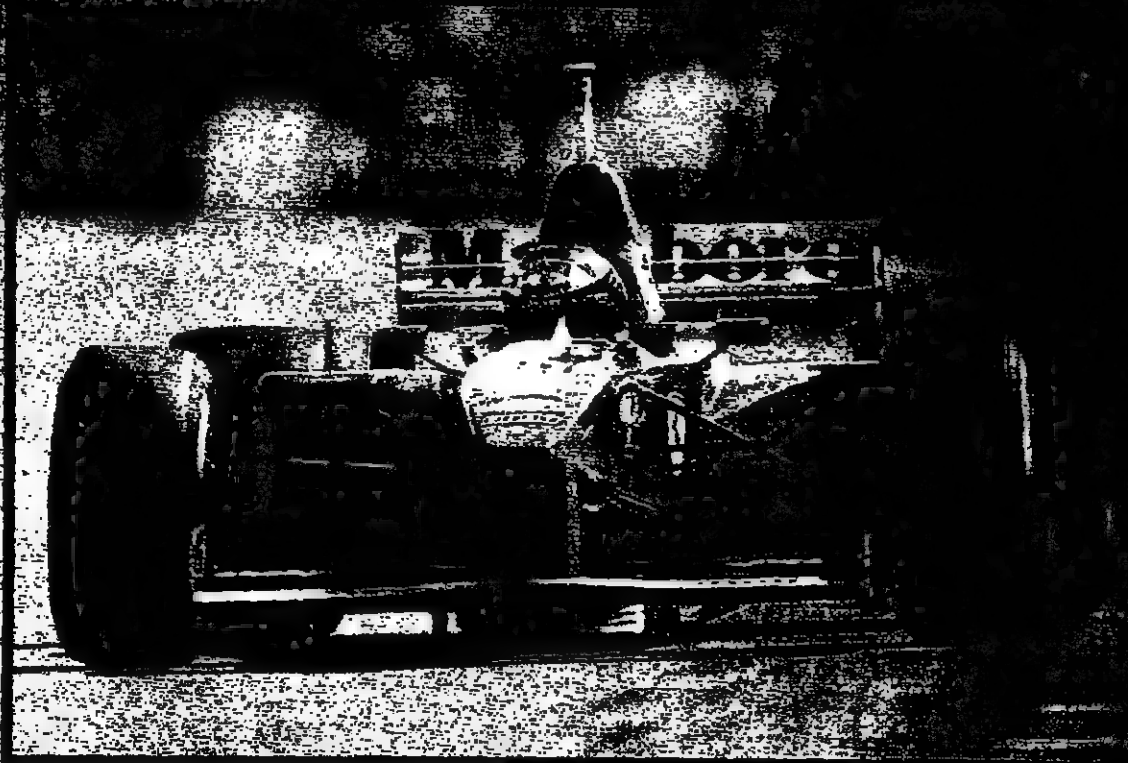
Rob Hayles, runner-up last year and back this week from the Tour of Holland, is hoping that the ten-day race has not sapped the speed from his legs.

Chris Newton is another who has returned from the continent for the trial on Sunday; he finished five seconds slower than Hayles last year to make the bronze medal.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION



Fantasy Formula One race hot up for our £25,000 top prize



HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN BARCELONA

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd H-H Frenzen 25; 3rd D Coulthard 24; 4th J Alesi 23; 5th M Hakkinen 22; 6th G Berger 21; 7th M Schumacher 20; 8th G Fisichella 19; 9th R Schumacher 18; 10th J Herbert 17; 11th E Irvine 16; 12th O Paris 15; 13th G Morbidelli 14; 14th M Salo 13; 15th D Hill 12; 16th S Nakano 11; 17th R Barrichello 10; 18th J Trulli 9; 19th J Verstappen 8; 20th U Katayama 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st J Villeneuve 60 points; 2nd O Paris 50; 3rd J Alesi 40; 4th M Schumacher 30; 5th J Herbert 28; 6th D Coulthard 28; 7th M Hakkinen 27; 8th H-H Frenzen 26; 9th G Fisichella 25; 10th G Berger 24; 11th J Verstappen 23; 12th E Irvine 22; 13th J Magnussen 21; 14th G Morbidelli 20; 15th J Trulli 19; Only 15 finished. Lap points (one point for each lap completed): J Villeneuve 64 points; O Paris 64; J Alesi 64; M Schumacher 64; J Herbert 64; D Coulthard 64; M Hakkinen 64; H-H Frenzen 64; G Fisichella 64; G Berger 64; J Verstappen 60; E Irvine 63; J Magnussen 63; G Morbidelli 62; J Trulli 62; P Diriz 63; R Schumacher 60; R Barrichello 37; M Salo 35; S Nakano 34; D Hill 18; U Katayama 11. Improvement from starting

grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): O Paris 30 points; J Magnussen 27; J Verstappen 24; J Herbert 15; M Schumacher 9; J Trulli 9; J Alesi 3. Fastest lap time of grand prix: G Fisichella 10 points. Penalty points: Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): M Schumacher. Elimination during the race (10 points deducted): D Hill-10 points; R Barrichello-10; M Salo-10; U Katayama-10; P Diriz-10; R Schumacher-10; S Nakano-10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none. **CONSTRUCTORS:** Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Williams 30 points; Prost 25; Benetton 24; Ferrari 23; Sauber 22; McLaren 21; Jordan 18; Tyrrell 16; Stewart 14; Minardi 12. Penalty points: Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Jordan-10 points. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Arrows-20 points; Jordan-10; Prost-10; Tyrrell-10; Minardi-10; Stewart-10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): none. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

N Rowe, from Britain, secured the top spot in the Fantasy Formula One race for our £25,000 top prize. On the last day of the competition, Rowe's team, which included the likes of Michael Schumacher, Jacques Villeneuve, and Damon Hill, secured the top spot. The race was held at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona. The top 10 finishers were: 1. Michael Schumacher (Williams), 2. Jacques Villeneuve (Williams), 3. Damon Hill (Williams), 4. Gerhard Berger (Ferrari), 5. Mika Hakkinen (McLaren), 6. Jarno Trulli (Minardi), 7. Eddie Irvine (Jaguar), 8. Heinz-Harald Frentzen (Benetton), 9. David Coulthard (McLaren), 10. Jean Alesi (Ferrari). The race was a thrilling contest, with Schumacher leading most of the way before being overtaken by Villeneuve in the final lap. Hill finished third, while Berger, Hakkinen, Trulli, Irvine, Frentzen, Coulthard, and Alesi completed the top 10. The Fantasy Formula One race was a success, with Rowe's team winning the £25,000 prize.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE SPANISH GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	What Alesi Bunch!	N Rowe	4896
2	Parkhurst Racing	L Dawson	4631
3	Tetch-Melsters Racing	B Day	4556
4	Team Julius II	C Gale	4518
5	Aston O	L Ackland	4504
6	Cheats	J Yeo	4499
7	The Chequered Flags	A Cooper	4494
8	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	4483
9	For Front Racing	E Wilkins	4478
10	Team Tifos 1	P Beater	4469
11	John Hunt 8	J Hunt	4467
12	John Hunt 10	J Hunt	4467
13	Tired And Exhausted	P Wilson	4462
14	John Hunt 23	J Hunt	4445
15	Darvin G P	B Young	4440
16	Watson Boyd	C Watson	4438
17	Greek Gods	D Anastasi	4421
18	Rapide Racing	P Woolley	4421
19	Petunia	Staszewicz	4414
20	Geopex 8	C Nicholson	4412
21	Bernie's Boys	W Patterson	4412
22	Rascasse	S Slater	4408
23	Jacques Jaguar	J Roets	4408
24	Sour Mash	R Owers	4402
25	Pirate Moose	G Pau	4395

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for each driver in the Spanish Grand Prix. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 J Villeneuve	159	13 O Paris	689
02 M Schumacher	118	14 J Verstappen	506
03 J Herbert	83	15 U Katayama	397
04 E Irvine	63	16 P Diriz	267
05 J Alesi	64	17 R Rosset	0
06 G Berger	63	18 R Schumacher	48
07 M Hakkinen	63	19 G Fisichella	118
08 D Coulthard	64	20 S Nakano	35
09 R Barrichello	37	21 R Larni/Morh	96
10 H-H Frenzen	26	22 J Trulli	99
11 J Verstappen	23	23 J Magnussen	171
12 M Salo	35	24 V Suspekt	0
GROUP C		GROUP D	
25 Williams	30	31 Arrows	-20
26 Ferrari	25	32 Sauber	22
27 McLaren	21	33 Tyrrell	6
28 Benetton	24	34 Stewart	2
29 Jordan	18	35 Minardi	12
30 Prost	25	36 Lola	0

FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001
-44 980 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 980 calls). For Inquiries call 01582 702 720. Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

GOLF

Broadhurst pitches for place in the team

FROM MEL WEBB IN HAMBURG

THE RYDER Cup — three little words that draw the best from some people and induce chest pains, dry mouths and clammy hands in others. There are dozens of professionals playing on the PGA European Tour who would take flight if they were ever in a position to win a place in golf's premier team competition — Paul Broadhurst is emphatically not one of them.

For the second time in his career, Broadhurst has fallen away a touch in his attempt to claim a Ryder Cup place, but the last occasion that it happened, he held his nerve, got what he was looking for, then played as well as anybody in the Europe team, coming away from Kiawah Island with a 100 per cent record.

FIRST ROUND

Great Britain and Ireland teams ranked 68: P Broadhurst, 69: A Bishopp (6), B Lane, M A Martin (5), 70: S Hurley, R Weesie, E Canonica (4), R McInnes, R Chapman, D Redford, P Gossan (3), M Gronberg (2), D Carter, A Johnston (1), J Robinson, 71: N Rothery, S Satchell, S Webster, P Curry, B Hughes (A), P Mitchell, B Langer (G), C Simeoni (5), I Gierdo (5), M Hallberg (5), V Phillips.

Broadhurst, who takes a one-shot lead into the second round of the Tournament Players' Championship of Europe at Gut Kaden today, was off the pace in the latter part of 1991. Then he produced a sequence of nine birdies in ten holes to win a tournament at Hoylake and, when faced with the challenge of finishing second in the last qualifying tournament to get in the team, did precisely that.

He started well this year and a succession of high finishes put him in a powerful position, but concern for his pregnant wife, Lorraine — she has now given birth to their third child, Sam — and a six-week lay-off have led to a drop in form. In the table while others around him have been coming in like fury, he has 211,754 points, 43,000 behind Lee Westwood, the ninth man, and thinks he will need at least 350,000.

Some folk have a tendency to be nervous and to be below par, but Broadhurst, who is talking about himself, just Broad-

hurst is cut from more modest cloth. However, in his case self-effacement should not be confused with a lack of determination, and his 68, which contained five birdies, one bogey and a parsimonious 27 putts, was a typically gritty round that put him ahead of fellow Cup contenders Miguel Angel Martin, Barry Lane and Albert Binaghi.

"I didn't feel I played particularly well in the Cannes Open, but I finished second there, so I shouldn't complain. I suppose," he said, "Something just didn't feel quite right, and I've been terrible ever since. I haven't had any confidence at all."

Broadhurst has since been putting in the hours with Bill Ferguson, his coach, and is now hitting the ball with the confident air of a man who knows where he is going. He wants that Ryder Cup place with a quiet intensity. "It's important to me," he said. "If I don't get it now, I would feel as if I'd blown it."

Broadhurst and his three nearest pursuers were members of an elite band of only 26 players to beat par on a cold and windy day in Schleswig-Holstein, which sounds less like a province of Germany than a dish in an Italian restaurant ("I'll have veal Schleswig-Holstein, please, and go easy on the capers") or maybe an obscure German lager ("Innkeeper, be so kind as to fetch me a pint of your best Schleswig-Holstein in a straight glass"). There were any number of small sub-plots as much of the field seemed caught in a state of suspended animation.

Sam Torrance had to give best to a neck injury and was replaced by Warren Bennett, who played nine holes before dropping out, himself with a would you believe it, a neck injury. Two withdrawals in the same group on the same day — Miguel Angel Jimenez and Jarrie Spence, the other two in the three-ball, must have thought it was something that they had said.

Meanwhile, Severiano Ballesteros' back was not helped by the weather, and, after a 71, he will decide today if he will play in the European Grand Prix at Sleaford next week.



Langer, who went round in 71, plays his opening shot of the Tournament Players' Championship yesterday

SAILING: ADELA ONLY 330 MILES FROM ATLANTIC FINISH LINE

Carson's schooner cruising to victory

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ADELA, the leading yacht in the Rolex Atlantic Challenge Cup fleet, was yesterday just 330 miles from the finish at the Lizard in Cornwall. She was expected to arrive in Falmouth tonight or early tomorrow morning.

Adela, a 170ft schooner built in 1995 along the lines of the 1903 schooner, *Herreshoff*, had opened up a gap of 120 miles over *Adix*, her only competitor in the spirit of tradition division.

Adix, a 193ft gaff-rigged schooner built in 1984, is skippered by Paul Goss who

has been chasing Steve Carson, the skipper of *Adela*, for most of the race. Several days ago he managed to cut her earlier 60-mile lead to around ten miles, and then briefly overtake, but the slightly smaller boat with a state-of-the-art carbon rig pulled away again in lightish air.

The race, which started in New York on May 17, commemorates the 1905 record-setting ocean crossing by the schooner *Atlantic* — a time that stood officially unbeaten until *Nicorette* bettered it early last month.

In the seven-strong classic division, the long-time leader *Mariette* — a 135ft Herreshoff

schooner built in 1915 — has finally been eclipsed by *Sumurin*, a 194-vintage ketch owned by Robert Towbin, which had the narrowest of leads yesterday. *Aello*, the Max Oertz-designed gaff-rigged schooner, has stopped racing after breaking her bowsprit and is cruising into Falmouth.

In the contemporary division, only six of the eight yachts entered are still racing. The 192ft schooner, *The Other Woman*, never left New York after an engine fire. *Globetrotter*, a Ron Holland-designed 118ft ketch, has had to retire to the Azores after ropes became wrapped round her keel.

The division is being led by *Sariyah*, an aluminium Sparkman & Stephens 1994 ketch built at Sensation in New Zealand. She has overtaken *Adix* and is poised for line honours in her class. Her nearest competitor is another Ron Holland design, *Never Say Never*, a 100ft cutter, which is still racing despite a cracked mast.

However, one of the best performers in the division on handicap is the 86ft *Sapphire*, yet another Ron Holland, which has been chartered by Anthony Matsush, of the Royal Yacht Squadron, and is skippered by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan face easy task before new expedition

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FOR eight of the sides in the Super League, the competition will fade into the background after tonight's round of matches. Attention will then turn to the great adventure of the 22-team world club championship which starts next week — a step into the unknown for all but one of the European contingent.

Wigan's last experience of Australia was in 1994 when they won the world club challenge match, against Brisbane Broncos, their second opponents in the group stages of the world club championship.

Before they head off for their opening game against Canterbury, Wigan will be facing Australian opposition tonight, albeit second rate in that it is provided by the exiles representing Paris Saint-Germain. There is no doubting Wigan's confidence after their record win on Monday at St Helens.

Leeds Rhinos, too, face all-England opponents in Warrington Wolves and will be expected to cut Bradford Bulls' lead at the top to five points, before they leaving at the weekend for sub-tropical climes and more onerous opposition. Leeds players have been wearing bin-liners in training in an effort to recreate the humid conditions they will face in Townsville, where they meet North Queensland tomorrow week.

Dean Bell, the Leeds coach, is confident of success in the first match and of beating Adelaide Rams, who are also in the bottom third of the Australasian Super League. Generally, though, he believes standards in the southern hemisphere are higher and would not be surprised by more defeats than victories for the European sides.

Warrington's new coach, Darryl Van de Velde, admitted this week that if he had known the size of the job, he would not have taken it. The £325,000 Warrington received from Leeds last month for Iestyn Harris has not gone into team-building.

London Broncos, who get the world club championship under way at Brisbane next Friday, are at home tonight to Sheffield Eagles and are expected to recall Martin Offiah, and Shaun Edwards.

Paul Forber, of Salford, will miss the visit of Bradford on Sunday. He has been banned for one match for a high tackle on Ian Pickavance, of St Helens, who was also suspended for a match for retaliating.

OXFORD EIGHTS

THERE were no changes at the top of the men's and women's first divisions on the second day of the Oxford University Summer Eights on the Isis yesterday.

Oriel and Osler-Green finished well clear of Magdalen and St Catherine's but there were many positional changes in the women's first division. St Catherine's finished one length clear of New College; all those below them were involved in bumps.

In contrast, there were only two bumps in the men's top division. Exeter caught Balliol while, lower down the division, Keble rowed past Jesus, who steered into a bank.

		MAY				28	29	30	31
		OSIEL	MAGDALEN	NEW COLLEGE	ST CATHERINE'S	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		MAGDALEN	NEW COLLEGE	ST CATHERINE'S	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		ST CATHERINE'S	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN
		OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN	OSIEL-GREEN

RUGBY UNION: ENGLAND REVEAL STRENGTH IN DEPTH FOR FIRST INTERNATIONAL AGAINST PUMAS

Rowell calls up six new caps to face Argentina

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN BUENOS AIRES

WITH 18 English players on duty with the British Isles' England's short tour of Argentina was always going to produce a crop of new caps. Whether anyone, let alone Jack Rowell, the coach, could have envisaged six in one international, as is the case against Argentina tomorrow, is doubtful.

It is a sign of the changing times in English rugby as well as its strength in depth that Rowell can name a team which looks more than capable of beating the Pumas. There are seven Bath players in the side — it could have been eight, but John Mallett has a recurring back problem. Only Mike Catt and Jon Sleighthorpe are left from the

row forward, who after a barnstorming performance in his first full game of the tour against Argentina A on Tuesday, plays at blind-side flanker, a position Ben Clarke, who is at No 7, would have preferred. However, the absence of Richard Hill and Neil Back in South Africa left Rowell few options at open-side and Clarke, who has played there for England, suffers for his versatility. Diprose after years of faithful service, was probably the outstanding forward on the tour, is at No 8.

"Diprose's hands can be on the edge of magic," Rowell said, "while Corry is like a banging door. He is a very powerful man, who has been close for a while. Ben, at the top of his form, is a majestic forward. He was the best in the world in 1993. Maybe he lost a bit dropping down to the second division, but now he is getting back to his best."

Given that Rowell likes to keep units together, Haag's selection ahead of David Baldwin as Nigel Redman's partner at lock was always likely. Haag, who doubted he would be picked, has benefited from the lifting laves and does well in the loose. The mobility of Haag's Bath team colleague, Yates, 26, is fast becoming "the pick of our loose heads", Rowell said.

Nick Greenstock paid tribute to the influence of Nigel Melville and Rob Smith at Wasps for his elevation, while Mallett has been in outstanding form for Sale. Channel 5 will show the Argentina v England rugby international match "as live" tomorrow evening after the Poland v England football World Cup qualifying match which starts in Katowice at 7.30pm. It had been hoped to stage both matches live, but the television station was unable to get agreement to move forward the kick-off of the rugby international match, which starts at 7.40pm.

Clarke has desire to impose his presence

Mark Souster hears why the captain of Richmond is ready for renewed national duty

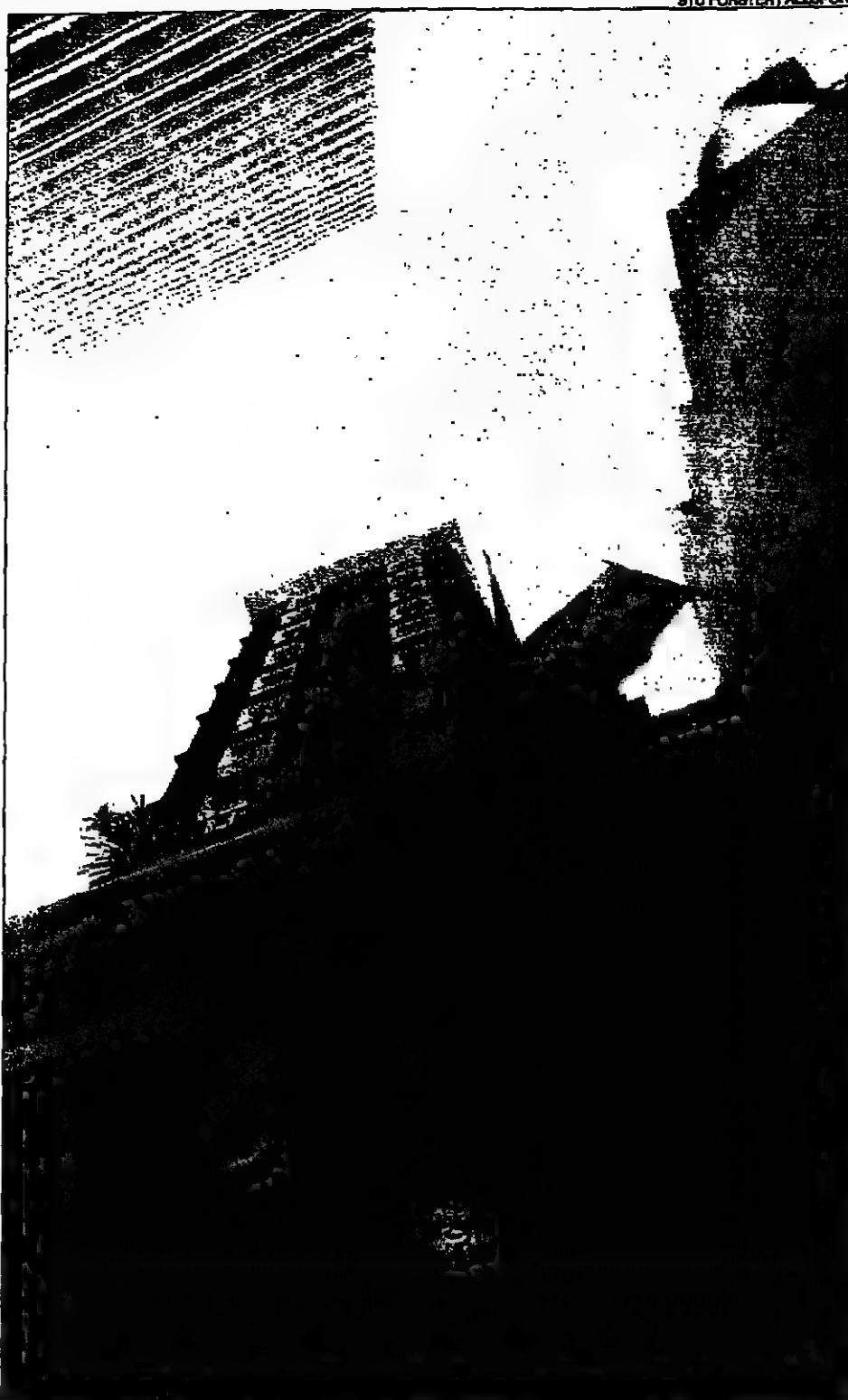
The trials of Ben Clarke's career over the past 12 months are a microcosm of the tribulations that have afflicted the first year of professional rugby union. Both took gambles: the sport by abandoning amateurism, Clarke by leaving behind the safe haven of the Recreation Ground, Bath, for a wage on success — as the new captain at the Athletic Ground, Richmond. While rugby appears to have backed a winner, Clarke, having put his chips on the red, black and old gold colours of the south-west London club, has had to wait for a return on his investment.

He is financially better off, of that there can be little doubt, with a lucrative five-year contract to sustain him. But there has been a price to pay. Who, a year ago, would have imagined an England team in which Clarke was not an automatic selection? Yet having dropped down a division, he fell away, as first injury and then the more outstanding claims of others cost him his international place.

That is why this tour of Argentina is as important to him as it is to the younger players seeking to impress Jack Rowell, the coach, and make an impact on the international scene. It provides an opportunity for Clarke to re-establish himself in an area where England have an embarrassment of riches.

Pretenders abound but, at 29, Clarke at his best, as he has been so far here in South America, has few peers. Tomorrow he will win his 31st cap in the first international against Argentina at No 7, a position to which he is not best suited, but his experience will be a vital commodity in what is, Nigel Redman apart, a callow pack.

Sitting in the foyer of the team hotel in Buenos Aires, idly toying with the froth on a cup of cappuccino coffee, Clarke, who gave up his job with National Power to concentrate on rugby, could be forgiven for allowing his mind to wander several thou-



Tower of strength: Clarke, back to his best, returns to the England pack tomorrow

sand miles across the Atlantic to the British Isles tour in South Africa.

Four years ago, as an integral part of the Lions tour to New Zealand, he played in all three internationals and such was his impact that Colin Meads, the great former All Black forward, was moved to consider him the only Lions player worth keeping. "You can send the others home," he said, "I have Clarke. Meads said, 'He was player of the year and the only England representative to be named in a hypothetical World XV. For a young man of 25 who appeared to have it all, it was heady stuff."

"It was a good time," Clarke recalled. "But times change, things move on. I don't regret moving to Richmond, we have won promotion and we should do well next season. I'll be back playing against my contenders week in, week out — back in the shop window — which can only be a good thing."

"I knew there was a risk [in moving] and I obviously hoped it would not have a bearing on my international career but going professional provided the opportunity to be part of a something from the start. I needed a change," he said.

His absence from the British Lions party he took philosophically. "I didn't have a good feeling about the Lions," he said. "Not playing for England didn't really help. But they picked others who hadn't been part of the five nations, so I still hoped. But it is just one of those things."

Johnson and Rodber add beef to Lions

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN

THE first close examination of the British Isles tour awaits as the Newlands Stadium here tomorrow, against Western Province, though, judging by the Lions' efforts in South Africa so far, they already have their work cut out. It will also provide evidence of the quality of the English beef which, all along, has been expected to underpin the tour.

Seven of the England pack will play against the unbeaten side that, earlier this season, won the Five Nations, the competition for those provinces not involved in the Super 12 tournament. They include Martin Johnson, the captain, and Tim Rodber, who make their first appearances of the tour.

The Lions, who are due to meet Nelson Mandela, the South African president, this morning, also take a calculated gamble by omitting both their proven international goalkeepers, Neil Jenkins and Paul Grayson. That duty will fall, initially, upon Tim Stimpson with Gregor Townsend providing back-up. The Newcastle full back has been striking the ball powerfully in training, both off the ground and out of hand.

In the absence of Scott Gibbs, the tour selectors have chosen to pair Jeremy Guscott with Alan Tait in the centre. Gibbs, the Swansea centre, travelled ahead of the main party from East London to Cape Town yesterday on that day-long treatment could be given to the ankle ligaments damaged by the narrow win over Border on Wednesday, but he is expected to be available within ten days.

John Bentley is switched from the right wing to the left, where he will face the frequently explosive, James Small. Though unimpaired by the left flank, Bentley is looking forward to the clash. "People say we are quite alike, which may have had some bearing on selection," he said. In the long term, it may prove significant that James Williams is given the nod against a Western Province front row that includes two international players, Benetton, the tour manager, is an admirer of the young Welsh hooker, who switched from Neath to Richmond earlier this month and Williams cannot wait to put the pressure on his more experienced

colleagues, Keith Wood and Mark Regan.

The Lions, however, cannot continue to rely on a late burst of activity to win matches. South African critics have identified, correctly, some hesitation at stand-off half and a lack of cohesion in the scrums that needs to be addressed. John Bradbrook, the Border scrum half, was particularly harsh on the quality of their tackling which, against Eastern Province and Border, has failed to stop opponents in their tracks and force the handling errors necessary if loose ball is to be turned over.

Moreover, the Lions had reason to query the quality of refereeing that ignores obstructive cross-overs in open play, offside at second phase and the law that requires



Rodber tour debut

scrums judges to stand aside side each other at the scrum feed. "Even Steve Strydom, chairman of the South African rugby union's referee development committee, acknowledged that the referee was not of the quality you would want to see," Cotton said of Andre Burger, of Gqeke, who handled the match with Border.

WILLIAMS (Wales) v Western Province: 1. Gareth Jones (Wales), 2. Gareth Jones (Wales), 3. Gareth Jones (Wales), 4. Gareth Jones (Wales), 5. Gareth Jones (Wales), 6. Gareth Jones (Wales), 7. Gareth Jones (Wales), 8. Gareth Jones (Wales), 9. Gareth Jones (Wales), 10. Gareth Jones (Wales), 11. Gareth Jones (Wales), 12. Gareth Jones (Wales), 13. Gareth Jones (Wales), 14. Gareth Jones (Wales), 15. Gareth Jones (Wales), 16. Gareth Jones (Wales), 17. Gareth Jones (Wales), 18. Gareth Jones (Wales), 19. Gareth Jones (Wales), 20. Gareth Jones (Wales), 21. Gareth Jones (Wales), 22. Gareth Jones (Wales), 23. Gareth Jones (Wales), 24. Gareth Jones (Wales), 25. Gareth Jones (Wales), 26. Gareth Jones (Wales), 27. Gareth Jones (Wales), 28. Gareth Jones (Wales), 29. Gareth Jones (Wales), 30. Gareth Jones (Wales), 31. Gareth Jones (Wales), 32. Gareth Jones (Wales), 33. Gareth Jones (Wales), 34. Gareth Jones (Wales), 35. Gareth Jones (Wales), 36. Gareth Jones (Wales), 37. Gareth Jones (Wales), 38. Gareth Jones (Wales), 39. Gareth Jones (Wales), 40. Gareth Jones (Wales), 41. Gareth Jones (Wales), 42. Gareth Jones (Wales), 43. Gareth Jones (Wales), 44. Gareth Jones (Wales), 45. Gareth Jones (Wales), 46. Gareth Jones (Wales), 47. Gareth Jones (Wales), 48. Gareth Jones (Wales), 49. Gareth Jones (Wales), 50. Gareth Jones (Wales), 51. Gareth Jones (Wales), 52. Gareth Jones (Wales), 53. Gareth Jones (Wales), 54. Gareth Jones (Wales), 55. Gareth Jones (Wales), 56. Gareth Jones (Wales), 57. Gareth Jones (Wales), 58. Gareth Jones (Wales), 59. Gareth Jones (Wales), 60. Gareth Jones (Wales), 61. Gareth Jones (Wales), 62. Gareth Jones (Wales), 63. Gareth Jones (Wales), 64. Gareth Jones (Wales), 65. Gareth Jones (Wales), 66. Gareth Jones (Wales), 67. Gareth Jones (Wales), 68. Gareth Jones (Wales), 69. Gareth Jones (Wales), 70. Gareth Jones (Wales), 71. Gareth Jones (Wales), 72. Gareth Jones (Wales), 73. Gareth Jones (Wales), 74. Gareth Jones (Wales), 75. Gareth Jones (Wales), 76. Gareth Jones (Wales), 77. Gareth Jones (Wales), 78. Gareth Jones (Wales), 79. Gareth Jones (Wales), 80. Gareth Jones (Wales), 81. Gareth Jones (Wales), 82. Gareth Jones (Wales), 83. Gareth Jones (Wales), 84. Gareth Jones (Wales), 85. Gareth Jones (Wales), 86. Gareth Jones (Wales), 87. Gareth Jones (Wales), 88. Gareth Jones (Wales), 89. Gareth Jones (Wales), 90. Gareth Jones (Wales), 91. Gareth Jones (Wales), 92. Gareth Jones (Wales), 93. Gareth Jones (Wales), 94. Gareth Jones (Wales), 95. Gareth Jones (Wales), 96. Gareth Jones (Wales), 97. Gareth Jones (Wales), 98. Gareth Jones (Wales), 99. Gareth Jones (Wales), 100. Gareth Jones (Wales), 101. Gareth Jones (Wales), 102. Gareth Jones (Wales), 103. Gareth Jones (Wales), 104. Gareth Jones (Wales), 105. Gareth Jones (Wales), 106. Gareth Jones (Wales), 107. Gareth Jones (Wales), 108. Gareth Jones (Wales), 109. Gareth Jones (Wales), 110. Gareth Jones (Wales), 111. Gareth Jones (Wales), 112. Gareth Jones (Wales), 113. Gareth Jones (Wales), 114. Gareth Jones (Wales), 115. Gareth Jones (Wales), 116. Gareth Jones (Wales), 117. Gareth Jones (Wales), 118. Gareth Jones (Wales), 119. Gareth Jones (Wales), 120. Gareth Jones (Wales), 121. Gareth Jones (Wales), 122. Gareth Jones (Wales), 123. Gareth Jones (Wales), 124. Gareth Jones (Wales), 125. Gareth Jones (Wales), 126. Gareth Jones (Wales), 127. Gareth Jones (Wales), 128. Gareth Jones (Wales), 129. Gareth Jones (Wales), 130. Gareth Jones (Wales), 131. Gareth Jones (Wales), 132. Gareth Jones (Wales), 133. Gareth Jones (Wales), 134. Gareth Jones (Wales), 135. Gareth Jones (Wales), 136. Gareth Jones (Wales), 137. Gareth Jones (Wales), 138. Gareth Jones (Wales), 139. Gareth Jones (Wales), 140. Gareth Jones (Wales), 141. Gareth Jones (Wales), 142. Gareth Jones (Wales), 143. Gareth Jones (Wales), 144. Gareth Jones (Wales), 145. Gareth Jones (Wales), 146. Gareth Jones (Wales), 147. Gareth Jones (Wales), 148. Gareth Jones (Wales), 149. Gareth Jones (Wales), 150. Gareth Jones (Wales), 151. Gareth Jones (Wales), 152. Gareth Jones (Wales), 153. Gareth Jones (Wales), 154. Gareth Jones (Wales), 155. Gareth Jones (Wales), 156. Gareth Jones (Wales), 157. Gareth Jones (Wales), 158. Gareth Jones (Wales), 159. Gareth Jones (Wales), 160. Gareth Jones (Wales), 161. Gareth Jones (Wales), 162. Gareth Jones (Wales), 163. Gareth Jones (Wales), 164. Gareth Jones (Wales), 165. Gareth Jones (Wales), 166. Gareth Jones (Wales), 167. Gareth Jones (Wales), 168. Gareth Jones (Wales), 169. Gareth Jones (Wales), 170. Gareth Jones (Wales), 171. Gareth Jones (Wales), 172. Gareth Jones (Wales), 173. Gareth Jones (Wales), 174. Gareth Jones (Wales), 175. Gareth Jones (Wales), 176. Gareth Jones (Wales), 177. Gareth Jones (Wales), 178. Gareth Jones (Wales), 179. Gareth Jones (Wales), 180. Gareth Jones (Wales), 181. Gareth Jones (Wales), 182. Gareth Jones (Wales), 183. Gareth Jones (Wales), 184. Gareth Jones (Wales), 185. Gareth Jones (Wales), 186. Gareth Jones (Wales), 187. Gareth Jones (Wales), 188. Gareth Jones (Wales), 189. Gareth Jones (Wales), 190. Gareth Jones (Wales), 191. Gareth Jones (Wales), 192. Gareth Jones (Wales), 193. Gareth Jones (Wales), 194. Gareth Jones (Wales), 195. Gareth Jones (Wales), 196. Gareth Jones (Wales), 197. Gareth Jones (Wales), 198. Gareth Jones (Wales), 199. Gareth Jones (Wales), 200. Gareth Jones (Wales), 201. Gareth Jones (Wales), 202. Gareth Jones (Wales), 203. Gareth Jones (Wales), 204. Gareth Jones (Wales), 205. Gareth Jones (Wales), 206. Gareth Jones (Wales), 207. Gareth Jones (Wales), 208. Gareth Jones (Wales), 209. Gareth Jones (Wales), 210. Gareth Jones (Wales), 211. Gareth Jones (Wales), 212. Gareth Jones (Wales), 213. Gareth Jones (Wales), 214. Gareth Jones (Wales), 215. Gareth Jones (Wales), 216. Gareth Jones (Wales), 217. Gareth Jones (Wales), 218. Gareth Jones (Wales), 219. Gareth Jones (Wales), 220. Gareth Jones (Wales), 221. Gareth Jones (Wales), 222. Gareth Jones (Wales), 223. Gareth Jones (Wales), 224. Gareth Jones (Wales), 225. Gareth Jones (Wales), 226. Gareth Jones (Wales), 227. Gareth Jones (Wales), 228. Gareth Jones (Wales), 229. Gareth Jones (Wales), 230. Gareth Jones (Wales), 231. Gareth Jones (Wales), 232. Gareth Jones (Wales), 233. Gareth Jones (Wales), 234. Gareth Jones (Wales), 235. Gareth Jones (Wales), 236. Gareth Jones (Wales), 237. Gareth Jones (Wales), 238. Gareth Jones (Wales), 239. Gareth Jones (Wales), 240. Gareth Jones (Wales), 241. Gareth Jones (Wales), 242. Gareth Jones (Wales), 243. Gareth Jones (Wales), 244. Gareth Jones (Wales), 245. Gareth Jones (Wales), 246. Gareth Jones (Wales), 247. Gareth Jones (Wales), 248. Gareth Jones (Wales), 249. Gareth Jones (Wales), 250. Gareth Jones (Wales), 251. Gareth Jones (Wales), 252. Gareth Jones (Wales), 253. Gareth Jones (Wales), 254. Gareth Jones (Wales), 255. Gareth Jones (Wales), 256. Gareth Jones (Wales), 257. Gareth Jones (Wales), 258. Gareth Jones (Wales), 259. Gareth Jones (Wales), 260. Gareth Jones (Wales), 261. Gareth Jones (Wales), 262. Gareth Jones (Wales), 263. Gareth Jones (Wales), 264. Gareth Jones (Wales), 265. Gareth Jones (Wales), 266. Gareth Jones (Wales), 267. Gareth Jones (Wales), 268. Gareth Jones (Wales), 269. Gareth Jones (Wales), 270. Gareth Jones (Wales), 271. Gareth Jones (Wales), 272. Gareth Jones (Wales), 273. Gareth Jones (Wales), 274. Gareth Jones (Wales), 275. Gareth Jones (Wales), 276. Gareth Jones (Wales), 277. Gareth Jones (Wales), 278. Gareth Jones (Wales), 279. Gareth Jones (Wales), 280. Gareth Jones (Wales), 281. Gareth Jones (Wales), 282. Gareth Jones (Wales), 283. Gareth Jones (Wales), 284. Gareth Jones (Wales), 285. Gareth Jones (Wales), 286. Gareth Jones (Wales), 287. Gareth Jones (Wales), 288. Gareth Jones (Wales), 289. Gareth Jones (Wales), 290. Gareth Jones (Wales), 291. Gareth Jones (Wales), 292. Gareth Jones (Wales), 293. Gareth Jones (Wales), 294. Gareth Jones (Wales), 295. Gareth Jones (Wales), 296. Gareth Jones (Wales), 297. Gareth Jones (Wales), 298. Gareth Jones (Wales), 299. Gareth Jones (Wales), 300. Gareth Jones (Wales), 301. Gareth Jones (Wales), 302. Gareth Jones (Wales), 303. Gareth Jones (Wales), 304. Gareth Jones (Wales), 305. Gareth Jones (Wales), 306. Gareth Jones (Wales), 307. Gareth Jones (Wales), 308. Gareth Jones (Wales), 309. Gareth Jones (Wales), 310. Gareth Jones (Wales), 311. Gareth Jones (Wales), 312. Gareth Jones (Wales), 313. Gareth Jones (Wales), 314. Gareth Jones (Wales), 315. Gareth Jones (Wales), 316. Gareth Jones (Wales), 317. Gareth Jones (Wales), 318. Gareth Jones (Wales), 319. Gareth Jones (Wales), 320. Gareth Jones (Wales), 321. Gareth Jones (Wales), 322. Gareth Jones (Wales), 323. Gareth Jones (Wales), 324. Gareth Jones (Wales), 325. Gareth Jones (Wales), 326. Gareth Jones (Wales), 327. Gareth Jones (Wales), 328. Gareth Jones (Wales), 329. Gareth Jones (Wales), 330. Gareth Jones (Wales), 331. Gareth Jones (Wales), 332. Gareth Jones (Wales), 333. Gareth Jones (Wales), 334. Gareth Jones (Wales), 335. Gareth Jones (Wales), 336. Gareth Jones (Wales), 337. Gareth Jones (Wales), 338. Gareth Jones (Wales), 339. Gareth Jones (Wales), 340. Gareth Jones (Wales), 341. Gareth Jones (Wales), 342. Gareth Jones (Wales), 343. Gareth Jones (Wales), 344. Gareth Jones (Wales), 345. Gareth Jones (Wales), 346. Gareth Jones (Wales), 347. Gareth Jones (Wales), 348. Gareth Jones (Wales), 349. Gareth Jones (Wales), 350. Gareth Jones (Wales), 351. Gareth Jones (Wales), 352. Gareth Jones (Wales), 353. Gareth Jones (Wales), 354. Gareth Jones (Wales), 355. Gareth Jones (Wales), 356. Gareth Jones (Wales), 357. Gareth Jones (Wales), 358. Gareth Jones (Wales), 359. Gareth Jones (Wales), 360. Gareth Jones (Wales), 361. Gareth Jones (Wales), 362. Gareth Jones (Wales), 363. Gareth Jones (Wales), 364. Gareth Jones (Wales), 365. Gareth Jones (Wales), 366. Gareth Jones (Wales), 367. Gareth Jones (Wales), 368. Gareth Jones (Wales), 369. Gareth Jones (Wales), 370. Gareth Jones (Wales), 371. Gareth Jones (Wales), 372. Gareth Jones (Wales), 373. Gareth Jones (Wales), 374. Gareth Jones (Wales), 375. Gareth Jones (Wales), 376. Gareth Jones (Wales), 377. Gareth Jones (Wales), 378. Gareth Jones (Wales), 379. Gareth Jones (Wales), 380. Gareth Jones (Wales), 381. Gareth Jones (Wales), 382. Gareth Jones (Wales), 383. Gareth Jones (Wales), 384. Gareth Jones (Wales), 385. Gareth Jones (Wales), 386. Gareth Jones (Wales), 387. Gareth Jones (Wales), 388. Gareth Jones (Wales), 389. Gareth Jones (Wales), 390. Gareth Jones (Wales), 391. Gareth Jones (Wales), 392. Gareth Jones (Wales), 393. Gareth Jones (Wales), 394. Gareth Jones (Wales), 395. Gareth Jones (Wales), 396. Gareth Jones (Wales), 397. Gareth Jones (Wales), 398. Gareth Jones (Wales), 399. Gareth Jones (Wales), 400. Gareth Jones (Wales), 401. Gareth Jones (Wales), 402. Gareth Jones (Wales), 403. Gareth Jones (Wales), 404. Gareth Jones (Wales), 405. Gareth Jones (Wales), 406. Gareth Jones (Wales), 407. Gareth Jones (Wales), 408. Gareth Jones (Wales), 409. Gareth Jones (Wales), 410. Gareth Jones (Wales), 411. Gareth Jones (Wales), 412. Gareth Jones (Wales), 413. Gareth Jones (Wales), 414. Gareth Jones (Wales), 415. Gareth Jones (Wales), 416. Gareth Jones (Wales), 417. Gareth Jones (Wales), 418. Gareth Jones (Wales), 419. Gareth Jones (Wales), 420. Gareth Jones (Wales), 421. Gareth Jones (Wales), 422. Gareth Jones (Wales), 423. Gareth Jones (Wales), 424. Gareth Jones (Wales), 425. Gareth Jones (Wales), 426. Gareth Jones (Wales), 427. Gareth Jones (Wales), 428. Gareth Jones (Wales), 429. Gareth Jones (Wales), 430. Gareth Jones (Wales), 431. Gareth Jones (Wales), 432. Gareth Jones (Wales), 433. Gareth Jones (Wales), 434. Gareth Jones (Wales), 435. Gareth Jones (Wales), 436. Gareth Jones (Wales), 437. Gareth Jones (Wales), 438. Gareth Jones (Wales), 439. Gareth Jones (Wales), 440. Gareth Jones (Wales), 441. Gareth Jones (Wales), 442. Gareth Jones (Wales), 443. Gareth Jones (Wales), 444. Gareth Jones (Wales), 445. Gareth Jones (Wales), 446. Gareth Jones (Wales), 447. Gareth Jones (Wales), 448. Gareth Jones (Wales), 449. Gareth Jones (Wales), 450. Gareth Jones (Wales), 451. Gareth Jones (Wales), 452. Gareth Jones (Wales), 453. Gareth Jones (Wales), 454. Gareth Jones (Wales), 455. Gareth Jones (Wales), 456. Gareth Jones (Wales), 457. Gareth Jones (Wales), 458. Gareth Jones (Wales), 459. Gareth Jones (Wales), 460. Gareth Jones (Wales), 461. Gareth Jones (Wales), 462. Gareth Jones (Wales), 463. Gareth Jones (Wales), 464. Gareth Jones (Wales), 465. Gareth Jones (Wales), 466. Gareth Jones (Wales), 467. Gareth Jones (Wales), 468. Gareth Jones (Wales), 469. Gareth Jones (Wales), 470. Gareth Jones (Wales), 471. Gareth Jones (Wales), 472. Gareth Jones (Wales), 473. Gareth Jones (Wales), 474. Gareth Jones (Wales), 475. Gareth Jones (Wales), 476. Gareth Jones (Wales), 477. Gareth Jones (Wales), 478. Gareth Jones (Wales), 479. Gareth Jones (Wales), 480. Gareth Jones (Wales), 481. Gareth Jones (Wales), 482. Gareth Jones (Wales), 483. Gareth Jones (Wales), 484. Gareth Jones (Wales), 485. Gareth Jones (Wales), 486. Gareth Jones (Wales), 487. Gareth Jones (Wales), 488. Gareth Jones (Wales), 489. Gareth Jones (Wales), 490. Gareth Jones (Wales), 491. Gareth Jones (Wales), 492. Gareth Jones (Wales), 493. Gareth Jones (Wales), 494. Gareth Jones (Wales), 495. Gareth Jones (Wales), 496. Gareth Jones (Wales), 497. Gareth Jones (Wales), 498. Gareth Jones (Wales), 499. Gareth Jones (Wales), 500. Gareth Jones (Wales), 501. Gareth Jones (Wales), 502. Gareth Jones (Wales), 503. Gareth Jones (Wales), 504. Gareth Jones (Wales), 505. Gareth Jones (Wales), 506. Gareth Jones (Wales), 507. Gareth Jones (Wales), 508. Gareth Jones (Wales), 509. Gareth Jones (Wales), 510. Gareth Jones (Wales), 511. Gareth Jones (Wales), 512. Gareth Jones (Wales), 513. Gareth Jones (Wales), 514. Gareth Jones (Wales), 515. Gareth Jones (Wales), 516. Gareth Jones (Wales), 517. Gareth Jones (Wales), 518. Gareth Jones (Wales), 519. Gareth Jones (Wales), 520. Gareth Jones (Wales), 521. Gareth Jones (Wales), 522. Gareth Jones (Wales), 523. Gareth Jones (Wales), 524. Gareth Jones (Wales), 525. Gareth Jones (Wales), 526. Gareth Jones (Wales), 527. Gareth Jones (Wales), 528. Gareth Jones (Wales), 529. Gareth Jones (Wales), 530. Gareth Jones (Wales), 531. Gareth Jones (Wales), 532. Gareth Jones (Wales), 533. Gareth Jones (Wales), 534. Gareth Jones (Wales), 535. Gareth Jones (Wales), 536. Gareth Jones (Wales), 537. Gareth Jones (Wales), 538. Gareth Jones (Wales), 539. Gareth Jones (Wales), 540. Gareth Jones (Wales), 541. Gareth Jones (Wales), 542. Gareth Jones (Wales), 543. Gareth Jones (Wales), 544. Gareth Jones (Wales), 545. Gareth Jones (Wales), 546. Gareth Jones (Wales), 547. Gareth Jones (Wales), 548. Gareth Jones (Wales), 549. Gareth Jones (Wales), 550. Gareth Jones (Wales), 551. Gareth Jones (Wales), 552. Gareth Jones (Wales), 553. Gareth Jones (Wales), 554. Gareth Jones (Wales), 555. Gareth Jones (Wales), 556. Gareth Jones (Wales), 557. Gareth Jones (Wales), 558. Gareth Jones (Wales), 559. Gareth Jones (Wales), 560. Gareth Jones (Wales), 561. Gareth Jones (Wales), 562. Gareth Jones (Wales), 563. Gareth Jones (Wales), 564. Gareth Jones (Wales), 565. Gareth Jones (Wales), 566. Gareth Jones (Wales), 567. Gareth Jones (Wales), 568. Gareth Jones (Wales), 569. Gareth Jones (Wales), 570. Gareth Jones (Wales), 571. Gareth Jones (Wales), 572. Gareth Jones (Wales), 573. Gareth Jones (Wales), 574. Gareth Jones (Wales), 575. Gareth Jones (Wales), 576. Gareth Jones (Wales), 577. Gareth Jones (Wales), 578. Gareth Jones (Wales), 579. Gareth Jones (Wales), 580. Gareth Jones (Wales), 581. Gareth Jones (Wales), 582. Gareth Jones (Wales), 583. Gareth Jones (Wales), 584. Gareth Jones (Wales), 585. Gareth Jones (Wales), 586. Gareth Jones (Wales), 587. Gareth Jones (Wales), 588. Gareth Jones (Wales), 589. Gareth Jones (Wales), 590. Gareth Jones (Wales), 591. Gareth Jones (Wales), 592. Gareth Jones (Wales), 593. Gareth Jones (Wales), 594. Gareth Jones (Wales), 595. Gareth Jones (Wales), 596. Gareth Jones (Wales), 597. Gareth Jones (Wales), 598. Gareth Jones (Wales), 599. Gareth Jones (Wales), 600. Gareth Jones (Wales), 601. Gareth Jones (Wales), 602. Gareth Jones (Wales), 603. Gareth Jones (Wales), 604. Gareth Jones (Wales), 605. Gareth Jones (Wales), 606. Gareth Jones (Wales), 607. Gareth Jones (Wales), 608. Gareth Jones (Wales), 609. Gareth Jones (Wales), 610. Gareth Jones (Wales), 611. Gareth Jones (Wales), 612. Gareth Jones (Wales), 613. Gareth Jones (Wales), 614. Gareth Jones (Wales), 615. Gareth Jones (Wales), 616. Gareth Jones (Wales), 617. Gareth Jones (Wales), 618. Gareth Jones (Wales), 619. Gareth Jones (Wales), 620. Gareth Jones (Wales), 621. Gareth Jones (Wales), 622. Gareth Jones (Wales), 623. Gareth Jones (Wales), 624. Gareth Jones (Wales), 625. Gareth Jones (Wales), 626. Gareth Jones (Wales), 627. Gareth Jones (Wales), 628. Gareth Jones (Wales), 629. Gareth Jones (Wales), 630. Gareth Jones (Wales), 631. Gareth Jones (Wales), 632. Gareth Jones (Wales), 633. Gareth Jones (Wales), 634. Gareth Jones (Wales), 635. Gareth Jones (Wales), 636. Gareth Jones (Wales), 637. Gareth Jones (Wales), 638. Gareth Jones (Wales), 639. Gareth Jones (Wales), 640. Gareth Jones (Wales), 641. Gareth Jones (Wales), 642. Gareth Jones (Wales), 643. Gareth Jones (Wales), 644. Gareth Jones (Wales), 645. Gareth Jones (Wales), 646. Gareth Jones (Wales), 647. Gareth Jones (Wales), 648. Gareth Jones (Wales), 649. Gareth Jones (Wales), 650. Gareth Jones (Wales), 651. Gareth Jones (Wales), 652. Gareth Jones (Wales), 653. Gareth Jones (Wales), 654. Gareth Jones (Wales), 655. Gareth Jones (Wales), 656. Gareth Jones (Wales), 657. Gareth Jones (Wales), 658. Gareth Jones (Wales), 659. Gareth Jones (Wales), 660. Gareth Jones (Wales), 661. Gareth Jones (Wales), 662. Gareth Jones (Wales), 663. Gareth Jones (Wales), 664. Gareth Jones (Wales), 665. Gareth Jones (Wales), 666. Gareth Jones (Wales), 667. Gareth Jones (Wales), 668. Gareth Jones (Wales), 669. Gareth Jones (Wales), 670. Gareth Jones (Wales), 671. Gareth Jones (Wales), 672. Gareth Jones (Wales), 673. Gareth Jones (Wales), 674. Gareth Jones (Wales), 675. Gareth Jones (Wales), 676. Gareth Jones (Wales), 677. Gareth Jones (Wales), 678. Gareth Jones (Wales), 679. Gareth Jones (Wales), 680. Gareth Jones (Wales), 681. Gareth Jones (Wales), 682. Gareth Jones (Wales), 683. Gareth Jones (Wales), 684. Gareth Jones (Wales), 685. Gareth Jones (Wales), 686. Gareth Jones (Wales), 687. Gareth Jones (Wales), 688. Gareth Jones (Wales), 689. Gareth Jones (Wales), 690. Gareth Jones (Wales), 691. Gareth Jones (Wales), 692. Gareth Jones (Wales), 693. Gareth Jones (Wales), 694. Gareth Jones (Wales), 695. Gareth Jones (Wales), 696. Gareth Jones (Wales), 697. Gareth Jones (Wales), 698. Gareth Jones (Wales), 699. Gareth Jones (Wales), 700. Gareth Jones (Wales), 701. Gareth Jones (Wales), 702. Gareth Jones (Wales), 703. Gareth Jones (Wales), 704. Gareth Jones (Wales), 705. Gareth Jones (Wales), 706. Gareth Jones (Wales), 707. Gareth Jones (Wales), 708. Gareth Jones (Wales), 709. Gareth Jones (Wales), 710. Gareth Jones (Wales), 711. Gareth Jones (Wales), 712. Gareth Jones (Wales), 713. Gareth Jones (Wales), 714. Gareth Jones (Wales), 715. Gareth Jones (Wales), 716. Gareth Jones (Wales), 717. Gareth Jones (Wales), 718. Gareth Jones (Wales), 719. Gareth Jones (Wales), 720. Gareth Jones (Wales), 721. Gareth Jones (Wales), 722. Gareth Jones (Wales), 723. Gareth Jones (Wales), 724. Gareth Jones (Wales), 725. Gareth Jones (Wales), 726. Gareth Jones (Wales), 727. Gareth Jones (Wales), 728. Gareth Jones (Wales), 729. Gareth Jones (Wales), 730. Gareth Jones (Wales), 731. Gareth Jones (Wales), 732. Gareth Jones (Wales), 733. Gareth Jones (Wales), 734. Gareth Jones (Wales), 735. Gareth Jones (Wales), 736. Gareth Jones (Wales), 737. Gareth Jones (Wales), 738. Gareth Jones (Wales), 739. Gareth Jones (Wales), 740. Gareth Jones (Wales), 741. Gareth Jones (Wales), 742. Gareth Jones (Wales), 743. Gareth Jones (Wales), 744. Gareth Jones (Wales), 745. Gareth Jones (Wales), 746. Gareth Jones (Wales), 747. Gareth Jones (Wales), 748. Gareth Jones (Wales), 749. Gareth Jones (Wales), 750. Gareth Jones (Wales), 751. Gareth Jones (Wales), 752. Gareth Jones (Wales), 753. Gareth Jones (Wales), 754. Gareth Jones (Wales), 755. Gareth Jones (Wales), 756. Gareth Jones (Wales), 757. Gareth Jones (Wales), 758. Gareth Jones (Wales), 759. Gareth Jones (Wales), 760. Gareth Jones (Wales), 761. Gareth Jones (Wales), 762. Gareth Jones (Wales), 763. Gareth Jones (Wales), 764. Gareth Jones (Wales), 765. Gareth Jones (Wales), 766. Gareth Jones (Wales), 767. Gareth Jones (Wales), 768. Gareth Jones (Wales), 769. Gareth Jones (Wales), 770. Gareth Jones (Wales), 771. Gareth Jones (Wales), 772. Gareth Jones (Wales), 773. Gareth Jones (Wales), 774. Gareth Jones (Wales), 775. Gareth Jones (Wales), 776. Gareth Jones (Wales), 777. Gareth Jones (Wales), 778. Gareth Jones (Wales), 779. Gareth Jones (Wales), 780. Gareth Jones (Wales), 781. Gareth Jones (Wales), 782. Gareth Jones (Wales), 783. Gareth Jones (Wales), 784. Gareth Jones (Wales), 785. Gareth Jones (Wales), 786. Gareth Jones (Wales), 787. Gareth Jones (Wales), 788. Gareth Jones (Wales), 789. Gareth Jones (Wales), 790. Gareth Jones (Wales), 791. Gareth Jones (Wales), 792. Gareth Jones (Wales), 793. Gareth Jones (Wales), 794. Gareth Jones (Wales), 795. Gareth Jones (Wales), 796. Gareth Jones (Wales), 797. Gareth Jones (Wales), 798. Gareth Jones (Wales), 799. Gareth Jones (Wales), 800. Gareth Jones (Wales), 801. Gareth Jones (Wales), 802. Gareth Jones (Wales), 803. Gareth Jones (Wales), 804. Gareth Jones (Wales), 805. Gareth Jones (Wales), 806. Gareth Jones (Wales), 807. Gareth Jones (Wales), 808. Gareth Jones (Wales), 809. Gareth Jones (Wales), 810. Gareth Jones (Wales), 811. Gareth Jones (Wales), 812. Gareth Jones

CRICKET

Elliott and Langer make most of batting practice

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

BRISTOL (final day of three): Gloucestershire drew with the Australians

AFTER their bowlers had loosened up on Wednesday, it was the turn of Australia's batsmen to get in some valuable practice yesterday. Matthew Elliott, their first-choice opener, made 124 and Justin Langer, one of the spare batsmen, finished with 152 not out as they batted through the day before declaring at 354 for four.

They would have preferred their beleaguered captain to have made a century, but Mark Taylor lasted only half an hour before he was out leg-before to Martin Ball, the off-spinner. He made 30 when he really needed a score such as Elliott's. "It was nice to spend some time in the middle," he said, "and it would have been nice to have made more runs. But they're not bowling many half-volleys."

Taylor is taking a philosophical view of his poor form, and confirmed that he would lead Australia into the first Test, which starts at Edgbaston next Thursday. "I feel I'm muddling the ball pretty well, but the problem now is a mental one," he said. "Every county match is like a Test match. If I can come through this patch, and get runs, then I'll be ready to go."

As ever, the Australia captain is conducting himself with grace and common sense, despite his lack of runs and the intense media interest in his failure. That interest resulted yesterday in some provocative meddling by a tabloid news-

paper, which greeted him at the ground with a three-foot wide bat it had mocked up on its back page, boasting that Taylor's tale of woe was the biggest story in Ashes cricket since the Bodyline series 60 years ago.

It should be borne in mind that this not-terribly amusing stunt had nothing to do with the paper's cricket correspondent, who was chastened by the whole wretched business. Compared with the "declaration of war" against Germany that its editor announced on the front page last June, before the European championship semi-final at Wembley, it could be said that Taylor got off lightly.

It was still an unsavoury business and Taylor confessed that he was disappointed by the morning ambush. "I don't think I should have to stand next to a three-foot bat to prove

I have a sense of humour," he said. Quite right.

"I was very nervous to start with," he said of his latest innings. "The pressure is on me, there's no getting away from that. It's not like playing here in county matches in 1989 and 1993. There are no freebies for me. I think I have got to play in the first Test, but I would like to get there on form alone."

Elliott, the tall left-hander from Victoria, will be Taylor's opening partner at Edgbaston. His runs here meant that Michael Slater, the opener he deposed last winter, can have a game this weekend at Derby, where he made a hundred in two hours on the tour four years ago.

Together with Langer, Elliott added 192 for the second wicket until he was leg-before to Mike Smith, bowling the second over with the new ball. Elliott struck 18 boundaries and lifted Ball over mid-wicket for six. England could see an awful lot of him this summer.

Langer is unlikely to feature in the Test team unless Greg Blewett's knee injury fails to heal. His century came in quicker time and he reached it by the unglamorous means of two overthrows. The match had lost its sting by then, and the sight of Jack Russell bowling round-arm brought down the curtain on three pleasant days.

Chris Ball, an all rounder, Justin Bates, an off spinner, and James Pymont, a batsman, will make their first-class debuts for Sussex against Oxford University in the Parks today.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIANS: First Innings 249 (S R Waugh 82, M E Waugh 56, J J Lewis 4 for 89)

Second Innings
M T G Elliott low b Smith 124
J Langer not out 152
S K Warner b Smith 0
J N Gillespie c Russell b Lewis 7
M E Waugh not out 32
Extras (b 6, lb 2, w 1) 9
Total (4 wickets) 354

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-82, 2-254, 3-282, 4-354

BOWLING: Smith 13-5-18-2, Davis 23-6-101-0, Lewis 18-5-59-1, Ball 28-9-89-1, Albrey 8-2-25-0, Trinder 3-2-6-0, Hancock 5-0-26-0, Russell 2-0-15-0, Young 2-0-4-0

GLoucestershire: First Innings 350 (N J Trinder 121, R J Cunniff 61, S K Warner 4 for 97)

Umpires: G I Burgess and P Adams



Russell, the Gloucestershire wicketkeeper, appeals as Taylor, the Australia captain, falls leg-before to Ball

Middlesex handover marked by revealing hundreds

By PAT GIBSON

LORD'S (first day of four): Middlesex won toss; Middlesex have scored 400 for two wickets against Northamptonshire

AS WORDSWORTH might have put it, bliss was it on that pitch to be a batsman... but to be a Middlesex captain, young or old, was very heaven. Or, in more prosaic terms, things could not have gone much better for Mark Ramprakash and Mike Gatting on the day one took over the leadership of the county and the other set his sights on a century of centuries.

Ramprakash did not need any advice from Gatting before electing to bat on winning the toss and sitting back to wait for what was, indeed, a heaven-sent opportunity. Jacques Kallis and Paul Weekes gave Middlesex their best start of the season, Kallis went on to score his first hundred for the club, and then Ramprakash and Gatting sealed the moment.

Not surprisingly, Ramprakash made a nervous start, but he got all the support he needed from his predecessor, and by the time they completed their centuries on a beautiful sunlit evening, both of them were reveling in the magic of it all.

The statistics reveal the character of the two innings. Ramprakash reached his hundred first, but it had taken him 380 minutes and 219 deliveries. It was his third of the season and the 36th of his career. Gatting, who had given Ramprakash 33 runs and 33 overs start, got to his century in only 156 minutes off 157 balls. It was his second of the season and the 92nd of his career.

Both reached their milestones with singles off Taylor, the left-arm swing bowler, who by then had been reduced to bowling slow left-arm, which tells you all you need to know about the Northamptonshire bowler's strategy.



Ramprakash: careful

suspected what was coming when Bollett conceded 17 runs in his first over.

Follett, released by Middlesex at the end of last season, began with four wickets, which counts as six in the championship these days, conceded two boundaries and added a no-ball. Kallis needed no second invitation to show his class, and with Weekes producing some punishing strokes of his own, they had 107 on the board in 23 overs when Weekes drove Curran straight to extra cover.

Perhaps Weekes had been unsettled by the sight of John Emburey, his former mentor, coming on in his role as twelfth man as well as Northamptonshire coach, and no doubt reflecting on the fact that his side could well do with his bowling. Emburey's appearance had brought generous applause from the Middlesex faithful, but it had none of the warmth of the greeting for Ramprakash as he took up his onerous new duties.

He was clearly taking his responsibilities seriously, needing 26 balls to get off the mark, but it hardly interrupted Middlesex's progress since Kallis was going so well. The South African is particularly powerful off the front foot, and he relished the short boundary on the Grandstand side as he advanced to 121, including 22 fours, off 162 balls in a brisk under four hours.

Then he drove Curran to extra cover in much the same way as Weekes had done, leaving the stage to the man who is now taking on the burden of leadership, and the man, who has carried it for nearly 14 seasons.

Both of them will be happy if there are many more days like this. While Ramprakash continued to show the determination he expects from his batsmen, Gatting revealed his release from such pressures. It was as though the were feeding off each other, and by the close their partnership was worth 181.

Yorkshire sixth-wicket pair hold key

By SIMON WILDE

ILFORD (first day of four): Essex won toss; Yorkshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 139 runs behind Essex

THIS was a most extraordinary day's cricket, full of incident, entertainment and surprises. When the batsmen were not striking boundaries, the bowlers were taking wickets, and by stumps the tally stood at 455 runs and 15 wickets, with no partnership lasting more than 19 overs.

One upset is that Essex, having done the important thing at St Valentine's Park and won the toss, are well on top and if they do not go on to surprise. They were all out for 207 - Gough taking five for 74 - and by stumps Yorkshire had stuttered to 158 for five. At one point they were 67 for five, before Michael Vaughan and

Richard Blakey saw out the day and restored their crumbling hopes, Vaughan making a cultured 92 not out.

The other consequence is that, with 15 wickets falling in the day, the pitch will be reported as a matter of course to Lord's by umpires Sharp and Steele, but is likely to escape censure. The sheer volume of runs ought to be vindication enough, but if not, there was no shortage of poor shot selection worth taking into account.

The pitch is green and dry, offering little to the fast bowlers except bounce but showing signs of turn even before lunch, by which time Yorkshire had already tried out Stemp and Vaughan. Stemp took three wickets with his left-arm spin. Such two for Essex with his off spin. Essex fully expect him to be their match-winner now.

They were nothing like so sanguine in mid-afternoon.

Then they were 184 for eight and were making pretty poor use of the best batting conditions the game will probably see. Prichard was yoked in Gough's second over but Gough, Hussain, Stuart Law and Irani all got their feet under the table.

It was no great surprise when Gough was bowled by



Gough: five wickets

White's second ball but less expected were the departures of the others. Hussain had moved serenely to 42 when Stemp's extra bounce found the shoulder of his bat and gave Byas a simple slip catch. Law pushed forward tentatively to give another catch in the slips and Irani, having thumped the ball around to good effect, pushed forward at Gough and was caught behind.

Gough was bowling superbly at this point, as he had in his first probing spell in the morning. Returning after lunch, he claimed three wickets in three overs, bowling yorkers and inswingers at the slips and Irani, having thumped the ball around to good effect, pushed forward at Gough and was caught behind.

These two wickets yielded 113 runs, Cowan adding 34 in 13 roisterous overs with

Rollins and 29 with Such. Rollins led the way with some clean hitting and Cowan, who is a fast-rising new-ball bowler but no mean batsman either, soon caught his mood. He, too, planted his foot down the pitch and drove the ball handsomely. His unbeaten 43 was a career-best score and he has now more first-class runs to his name this season than Gooch (135 against 134).

Yorkshire were soon in trouble. Moxon was beaten by outswinging in Ball's second over, while Byas spent 11 uncomfortable overs scoring five. Lehmann drove loosely at Ball and was caught in the slips and White was no more circumspect.

Only Parker could make excuses, run out at the non-striker's end in the unhelpful of manners, via a deflection from Such's hand. Yorkshire's fragile hopes rest with their sixth-wicket pair.

Centurions flay Durham bowlers

By BARNEY SPENDER

CARDIFF (first day of four): Glamorgan won toss; Glamorgan have scored 433 for three wickets against Durham

SUMMER, at last, arrived in the Principality with a vengeance and, for the decent-sized crowd which turned up at Sofia Gardens yesterday, it spelt three things: cold pop, sun cream and the flattest of pitches that allowed the home batsmen to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

At the heart of it was a thrilling opening partnership of 229 between Hugh Morris and Steve James, who both recorded their second centuries of the season. James got his before lunch, while for Morris it was his fifteenth in Glamorgan colours. Then, when James departed for 153 and Morris followed for 135, Adrian Dale, who fell just before the close for 73, and Matthew Maynard set Glamorgan up for a colossal total today.

The pitch is expected to take spin as the game goes on and, in Robert Croft and Dean Cosker, Glamorgan may have their match-winners.

This was a pretty good loss to win and Maynard had no hesitation in opting to bat first. Six overs into the innings, Morris and James had 32 on the board and the captain was free to turn his attention to the racing guide in the certain knowledge that his openers were set for a substantial partnership.

On present form, however, it was hardly a surprise for this has to be the most consistent and complementary opening pair in the country: Morris, the doughty left-hander with the granite defence, and James, the beetle-browed right-hander with a passion for making the boundary boards rattle. Either could fill in admirably at Edgbaston next week should Mike Atherton or Nick Knight not be available. This was their third century partnership of the

season although, for good measure, James also put on a hundred with Adrian Shaw in the win over Kent when Morris was injured.

"They kept bowling balls in nice places," James said kindly about the Durham attack. True, they did bowl poorly, especially with the new ball, and the fielding was also short of par, but that is not fair on James, who was in, especially fine form.

He had previously taken 109 off Yorkshire, and has now passed fifty in six of his seven championship "innings", his only "failure" being a 46 against Kent. Yesterday, he raced to his fifty from 59 balls, survived a difficult chance to James Bolting in the gully on 52, and then, when the first of the all-run fours took him to 80, he had the pleasure of being the first man in the country to reach 500 runs in the championship. Morris was the second when he reached 62.

James went on to his century off 126 balls with his seventeenth boundary, a flick through mid-wicket off Beiling. The record books suggested that it was the first Glamorgan hundred before lunch - since Maynard's against the 1993 Australians in Neath and the first on this ground since Majid Khan in 1969. By the time, midway through the afternoon, when he filled a return catch back to Bolting, James had fayed the attack to the tune of 153 runs from 184 balls: He struck 24 boundaries and stretched Morris' goodwill to the limit by calling for two all-run fours.

Morris continued to plunder the beleaguered attack and reached his own milestone just before tea with a sweep boundary off the left-arm spin of David Coe, who was curiously under-used by David Boon. Morris' partnership of 119 with Dale ended when he drove Collingwood to John Morris at extra cover.

Then he drove Curran to extra cover in much the same way as Weekes had done, leaving the stage to the man who is now taking on the burden of leadership, and the man, who has carried it for nearly 14 seasons.

Nottinghamshire are grateful to Afzaal

By RICHARD HOBSON

TRENT BRIDGE (first day of four): Nottinghamshire won toss; Kent, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 177 runs behind Nottinghamshire

FOR someone still in his teens, at least for another fortnight, Usman Afzaal shows remarkably little of the rashness one associates with youth. Patience is clearly a virtue in his mind and, not for the first time this season, Nottinghamshire were grateful for it yesterday.

Since introducing him for the first time this season against Lancashire, Notts have won both of their four-day games in climbing to second place in the table. Victory here will take them above Gloucestershire, the present leaders. Kent, however, are entitled to feel that they hold the initiative after dismissing the home side for 216, despite missing Dean Headley from their attack because of a back injury that will also rule him out of the first Test against Australia next week.

Afzaal was raised in Karachi, where his father served as an officer in the Pakistan army, and arrived in England at a time when Notts were not strangers to such an exalted position. He gained a reputation in schoolboy cricket as a left-arm spinner and considers himself as an all-rounder.

One tale illustrates his confidence. When Notts released Chris Lewis two years ago, Lewis suggested that Afzaal should fill his place in the Notts side and that, with regular opportunities, he could become an England player by the age of 21. On hearing this, Afzaal took umbrage. He told Lewis that he could become an international by 20 and proclaimed so publicly.

The opinion of Lewis does not carry much weight within the hierarchy at Trent Bridge and Afzaal has had to

force his way into the side by scoring heavily for the second team. At county level, at least, he will surely be a fixture for years to come.

Notts confirmed yesterday that they have terminated the contract of Mohammad Zahid and are waiting to learn from the English Cricket Board whether they can sign an alternative overseas player on the grounds that Zahid never made an appearance because of his back problem. Ata-ur-Rehman, another Pakistan fast bowler, is the most likely replacement.

Notts have not been let down by their younger English-qualified players so far. Indeed, the two lowest scorers in the top order yesterday were their two most experienced batsmen, Metcalfe and Johnson. With Fleming and Ealham swinging the ball around on a warm morning, scoring was never easy and Downman lost his composure after close to two hours when he nibbled at Fleming.

Ealham trapped the uncertain Gie leg before on the back foot and tempted Johnson to follow one to second slip in successive overs before McCague produced a snorter that lifted and left Archer, whose 49 exceeded the aggregate of his previous seven championship innings.

Notts were 122 for six when Fulton held Noon smartly caught at short leg, but Afzaal consistently showed the full face of his bat in adding 58 in 22 overs with Evans.

The latter perished to an attempted hook and, after a stay of 186 minutes, Afzaal edged an attempted steer to Marsh, one of six catches for the wicketkeeper, thus beginning a spell of three wickets in eight deliveries for Fleming, who finished with career-best figures of five for 51.

Leicestershire attack thwarted by Lloyd

By JACK BAILEY

LEICESTER (first day of four): Lancashire won toss; Lancashire have scored 365 for nine wickets against Leicestershire

LEICESTERSHIRE were not quite able to achieve the final breakthrough in time to claim the day. They bowled well and fielded magnificently in the face of losing the toss, in conditions made for batting, captured six good wickets before Lancashire had reached 200, but then saw Graham Lloyd make 82, staging a rescue with the indomitable Warren Hegg, who, coming in at the fall of the sixth wicket, went on to play the longest innings of the day.

With the cheerful help of Glen Chapple, Hegg continued Lancashire's revival. Thus a day that had begun with the good news - for Leicestershire - that Wasim Akram would not be playing, due to his troublesome shoulder injury, and saw Alan Mullally's four wickets push Leicestershire to the brink of success, ended with honours even.

Lloyd's was a combative innings, full of belligerence despite the knowledge that a number of earlier dismissals had been the result of too much confidence and insufficient application. While Hegg held firm, Lloyd met fire - and there was plenty of that from Mills and Mullally - with fire. His 82 came from 101 balls; his 12 fours were the result of a keen eye and a batsman in the full bloom of confidence.

Previous scores of 225 against Yorkshire, 102 against Durham, and 62 against Nottinghamshire were a helpful background to Lloyd's innings against one of the best county attacks. He certainly did Lancashire proud.

Before Hegg joined Lloyd, Leicestershire were riding high. To have

reduced bathing of the order of Lancashire's to 179 for six on a good batting pitch was an achievement worthy of the 1996 champions. Although the fine edge to a vibrant display became dulled in the heat of a long day, Leicestershire stuck well to their task. Whitaker made the most of his resources.

All save Gallian, of Lancashire's formidable early batsmen, seemed well set before they were out. Gallian had scored 12 of a brief opening partnership before being well picked up, low down, at slip by Johnson, who has proved a useful bats-and-pieces cover.

How useful was shown when he took a hand in two of the next three wickets to fall. This did not include that of Atherton. Entirely unassisted, Mullally accomplished the England captain's downfall with a ball of good length which straightened. Atherton was turned round square to the bowler when the ball flicked his off bat.

A gilt-edged calling card from Mullally, then, just to ensure that he was not forgotten. He also came back later to all but destroy the Lancashire middle order, but before then Johnson had played a notable part by having John Crawley caught behind and, amid a flurry of bouncers, inducing Fairbrother to swat the ball to extra cover.

Once Lloyd had been stomped beautifully off a well-flighted ball from Pierson, it was chiefly a tale of Hegg, obdurate and invaluable, and Chapple, who played better than anyone coming in at No 10 has a right to do. Hegg was bowled by the second new ball, but by then, Lancashire were well back in the game, and Mills was looking a little the worse for wear.



James: fine century



Morris: hit milestone

CRICKET: WORCESTERSHIRE OPENER SHOWS TRUE GRIT AFTER HICK FAILS IN FRONT OF ENGLAND COACH

Curtis soldiers on with century duty

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENTWORCESTER (first day of four; Worcestershire won toss):
Worcestershire have scored 270 for six wickets against Somerset

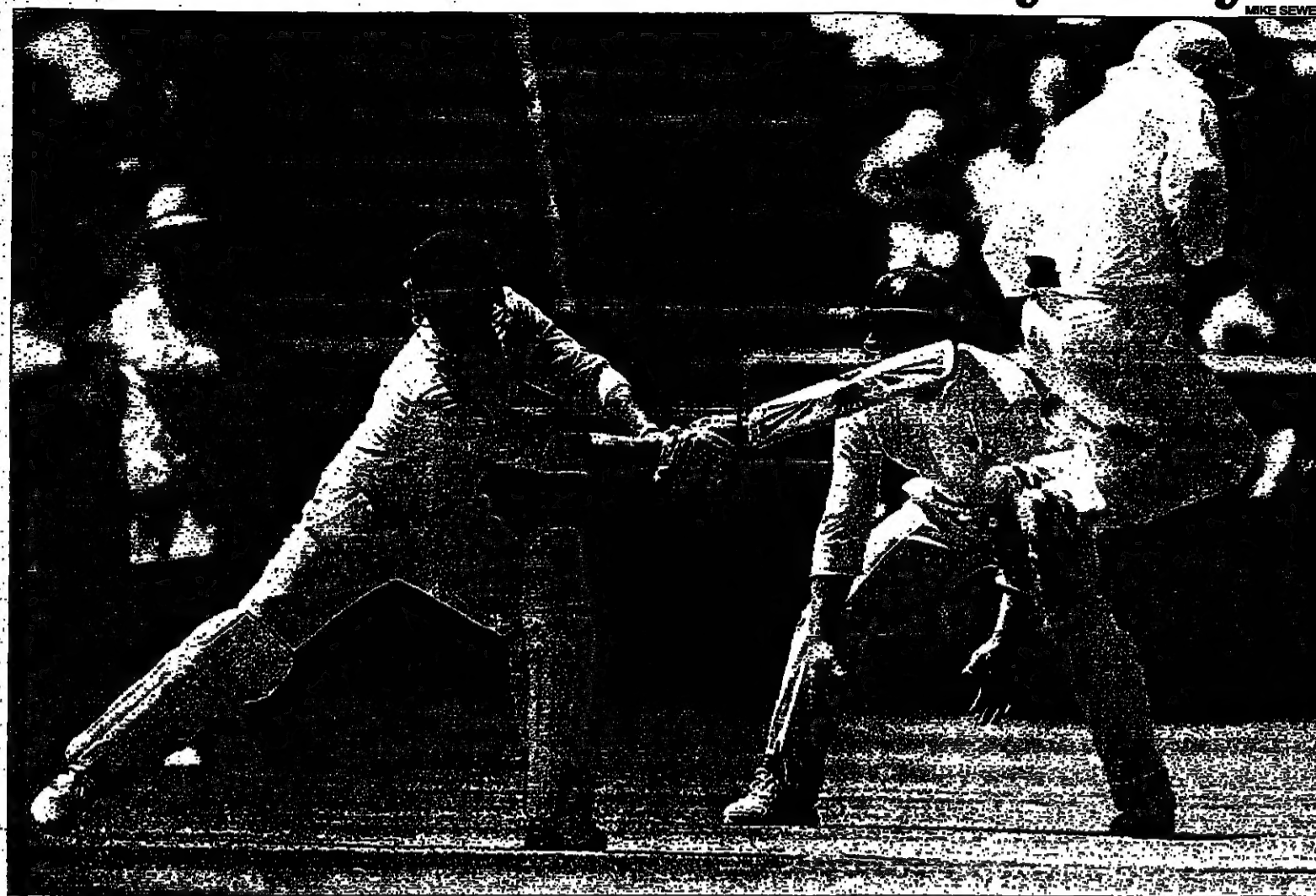
FOR those with time on their hands and tradition in the soul, there is no better place than New Road in the early summer sunshine. Yesterday, while the club was entertaining relatives of the seven Foster brothers, who played for them from 1899 to 1934, a modern-day stalwart, Tim Curtis, was making the type of stoical, undemonstrative century that has been his trademark for almost 20 years.

His runs keeping pace with the overs, in the heart of half a lifetime, Curtis milked a persevering Somerset attack on a slow, bland pitch. The 41st century of his career occupied exactly six hours, gratifying symmetry for this most precise player. These were tranquil events on a day to match but, away from the middle, Worcestershire cricket was being forced to contemplate upheaval.

With mutual regret, Dave Houghton and the club have announced an imminent parting. Houghton had planned to commit himself full time to coaching Worcestershire — terms had been discussed and agreed — but a persuasive offer to become national coach of his native Zimbabwe was impossible to resist.

He will leave in August and, within minutes of the announcement, Mike Vickings, the county secretary, had fielded a phone call from the first applicant. There will be no hasty appointment but an intriguing contender could be the former captain of the county, Phil Neale.

Since his retirement as a player, Neale has coached Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. He is in his third season at Edgbaston but is



Curtis forces a close fielder to take evasive action with a rare aggressive stroke during an obdurate innings of 101 at New Road yesterday

believed to be unhappy that the club has so far not responded to his request for an extended contract. He still lives in Worcester and a return to the club he regards as home is a distinct possibility.

Neale and Curtis may cross in the revolving door of career change as Curtis announced last month that this was to be his final season before moving permanently into teaching.

This was vintage Curtis —

correct, obstinate and intense, with just the occasional punctuation of fluency from an off-drive or violence with a poll. Until edging Graham Ross to slip in the 95th over, he had not offered a chance and scarcely played a false stroke.

Curtis's contribution was the more significant for the absence of Tom Moody. A back strain forced the Australian to miss a championship match for the first time since

he took on the captaincy — two years ago. Worcestershire's runs potential was thus diminished, the more so when Graeme Hick failed to deliver.

David Lloyd, the England coach, was on the ground, largely to satisfy himself that Andy Caddick's bowling is in good order. This mission was accomplished but the first of two wickets in 23 probing overs from Caddick was that

of Hick, who will not have improved his prospects of a Test match return through a casual pull that looped to square leg off the top edge.

Caddick ran in with gusto, not least when removing Leathdale leg before in his first over with the second new ball. His line was good but the lack of bounce was not to his liking. Nor, at first, did it suit Mushtaq Ahmed, who struggled for much of the day but

found his rhythm in the last session, occasionally extracting turn and having Solanki dropped from the last ball of the day.

Proceedings, however, had belonged to the times with 27 in the first session and 40 between lunch and tea. Gavin Haynes was the more active partner in a fourth-wicket stand of 129 but three late wickets gave Somerset heart.

Moles leads Warwickshire towards prosperity

BY JOHN THICKESSE

SOUTHAMPTON (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss):
Warwickshire have scored 351 for two wickets against Hampshire

WARWICKSHIRE can have no complaints numerically about their first day's work in cloudless south-coast weather. Yet, given a flying start by Nick Knight and Andy Moles, whose opening stand brought 154 in 39 overs, and buttressed by Moles's ninth score above 150, they did not make the most of superb batting conditions against one of the weakest attacks in county cricket.

Handicapped by the absence of Allan Donald, who strained his side during the Benson and Hedges quarter-final on Tuesday, they may have to bowl very well to win the match unless conditions change dramatically.

Knight's 81 off 116 balls can only

bolster his confidence since, up to yesterday, he had passed 12 only once this season. His defence remained untested, though, for he had little more to do than punish long hops and half-volleys. Moles, the economy of

that David Boon, looked bound to bat all day until, 20 minutes from the close, he carelessly coiffed a long hop to square leg to give newcomer Derek Kenway a wicket with his third ball in county cricket.

On a white pitch that offered nothing to the bowlers, it was obvious Hampshire faced a long haul from the moment Knight won the toss, but Warwickshire's start was made easier than it should have been by Cardigan Connor's unexpected waywardness. Normally so dependable, the 36-year-old bowler so short and wide to Knight that the left-hander hooked, cut and forced him for five fours in four overs. Hampshire might have

limited the damage but for giving Moles a life at six, when he edged Jim Boffa shoulder-high between two immobile slips.

Such was the perfection of the pitch, though, and the impossibility of defending a 60-yard boundary on the flat side, that Moles's runs would probably have been scored by someone else. Robin Smith shouldered an unenviable burden, standing in as captain for the injured John Stephenson. Even so, it seemed unduly pessimistic when he cried out, with a note of desperation: "A bit of magic here, chaps!" in only the third over of the game.

Knight overshadowed Moles in the 75 minutes it took him to reach 50 but by late morning Moles was placing his off-side strokes so precisely that he often did not have to run for them. Only one ball, from Boffa, went past a defensive bat in 36 overs before lunch. Fifteen minutes into the afternoon,

however, Knight was caught at the wicket off an inside edge and Warwickshire lost impetus. Moles advanced steadily on first first-class hundred of the season, but being missed at 18, at long leg by Boffa in the cost of a bloody nose, reminded Hemp that 37 was his highest score in 16 previous innings, which understandably persuaded him not to make a present of his wicket.

In the event, he had a lucky escape off the last ball before tea, when he lost his footing as he turned following Moles's rejection of a single off a hard hit to mid-off. Hemp, on his backside, was at Hampshire's mercy but was relieved when Boffa threw to White, the bowler, whose relay to the wicketkeeper, low and wide, left Aymes too much to do. This innings may turn Hemp's season. But the fact that his 50 took 165 minutes to complete may prove costly in terms of a win for his team.

Hampshire's transition from speedway's bad boy to one of its most impressive representatives will be complete a week on Sunday when he celebrates a testimonial to mark ten years with Bradford. He has chosen the testimonial brochure to give his first account of the troubled early days of his career.

"No one has got the true story from me. Since winning the world championship, supporters all over the country have been there for me and I think they deserve to know the truth," he said.

Havelock's main contenders for the British crown will be Chris Louis, of Ipswich, Andy Smith, Coventry's home-track expert, and Joe Screen, who is guaranteed a place in the world championship rounds as the defending British champion.

Havelock ready for return to world stage

BY TONY HOARE

BRITAIN'S last world champion takes his first steps towards regaining that distinction this Sunday when he competes in the British final of the world championship at Coventry. Gary Havelock, who won the world title in 1992, is one of 16 riders aiming for a place in the qualifying meetings of the 1998 world championship.

Havelock, 28, was the top British rider after two rounds of the grand prix series last year and showed much of the style that powered him to his brilliant world championship win five years ago. Three days before the third event, though, the England captain crashed riding for his country against Australia at Poole, suffering a fractured second vertebra in his lower back.

Missing the rest of the season ruled him out of the 1997 grand prix and, thus, the world championship. An operation to fuse two of his vertebrae together saved Havelock's career and he now has a more relaxed approach.

After two bans in 1989 and 1990, one for a drugs offence and the other for alleged bad behaviour at a meeting, Havelock won British championships in the next two seasons. The first ban ruled him out for the entire 1989 season and the anger fuelled his ambition.

Then I felt the world was against me and I had a point to prove," Havelock said. "I don't think I have anything to prove any more; my record speaks for itself."

Coming back from major spinal surgery is psychological. At the start of the season I was quite aware of it, but now that has almost gone from my mind. There is no rider I fear in Britain or the world and there is no reason why I can't go to Coventry and win it again."

Havelock's transition from speedway's bad boy to one of its most impressive representatives will be complete a week on Sunday when he celebrates a testimonial to mark ten years with Bradford. He has chosen the testimonial brochure to give his first account of the troubled early days of his career.

"No one has got the true story from me. Since winning the world championship, supporters all over the country have been there for me and I think they deserve to know the truth," he said.

Havelock's main contenders for the British crown will be Chris Louis, of Ipswich, Andy Smith, Coventry's home-track expert, and Joe Screen, who is guaranteed a place in the world championship rounds as the defending British champion.

Lomu hopes to return against England

JONAH LOMU, who played practically all his first-class rugby while ill with a kidney disease, has set his sights on an international comeback against England at Old Trafford in November. That is the first of two international matches New Zealand will play in England at the end of the year, by which time Lomu hopes to be fully fit.

"My dream is to be back wearing the No 11 shirt in the All Black team and the first big date is October 30 when the team to tour England is announced," he said. Lomu, 21, decided to stop playing in January to treat a disease called nephrotic syndrome, which could have caused chronic kidney disease.

Richard Loe, the prop who played 49 international matches for New Zealand, has retired because of a serious neck injury.

Almsick out

Swimming: Franziska van Almsick will not compete at the European championships in Seville, Spain, in August after a motorcycle accident in Berlin left her needing an operation on her hand. Van Almsick became a world 200 metres freestyle champion in 1994. A spokesman for Berlin Swimming Club said she hoped to get back into training in time to defend that title in Perth, next January.

Bulls in finals

Basketball: Chicago Bulls reached the National Basketball Association finals for the fifth time in seven years with a 100-87 victory over Miami Heat. Michael Jordan scored 15 of his 28 points in the first quarter. Chicago had to cope with the loss of Scottie Pippen after seven minutes with a sprained left foot.

Syed stays top

Table tennis: Matthew Syed and Lisa Lomas have retained the top spots in the England ranking lists, published yesterday. Alan Cooke, of Cheshire, who is expected to retire from international play soon, has moved from No 3 up to No 2, leapfrogging Carl Pearn, of the Isle of Wight.

Irish slump

Rugby union: Ireland A turned in an encouraging second-half display but still slumped to a third consecutive defeat in New Zealand in Rotorua yesterday. The tour team trailed Bay of Plenty by 42 points after 25 minutes, but after that the Bay side went to sleep, allowing the Irish to close the gap before losing 52-39.

Answers from page 42

METEORIS

(a) A form of meteorism (part for whole, eg the Crown, the Stage) in which the general idea substantiated is considerably removed from the particular detail.

STEMMA

(b) The Greek for a garland. The term has come to denote the recorded genealogy of a family, a family tree. By transference also denotes the tree of descent or lineage of a text. A manuscript may cast in several versions. These are "good" texts and "bad" versions. A scholarly edition of a text will take into account all the available data, readings, versions and emendations. A published text may in turn be subject to re-edition, hence recession and redaction.

FRICTIONALISM

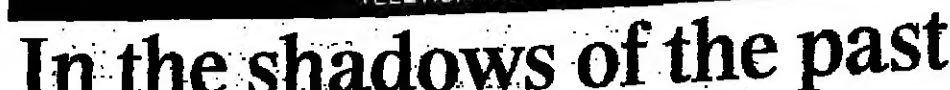
(c) In the 1940s a group of modernist Swedish poets founded a literary magazine called *Fortis* (the Forties). So the term means "poetry of the Forties".

FREYTAG'S PYRAMID

(d) The German critic Gustav Freytag, in *Die Technik des Dramas* (1872), analysed the structure of a typical five-act play thus: (a) introduction; (b) inciting incident; (c) rising action; (d) climax; (e) falling action; (f) catastrophe. The climax is the apex of the pyramidal structure.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qd7, 2 Kh7, 3 Rh3, 4 Nf4, 5 Rh3, 6 Kg5, 7 Rh3, 8 Kg5, 9 Rh3, 10 Kg5, 11 Rh3, 12 Kg5, 13 Rh3, 14 Kg5, 15 Rh3, 16 Kg5, 17 Rh3, 18 Kg5, 19 Rh3, 20 Kg5, 21 Rh3, 22 Kg5, 23 Rh3, 24 Kg5, 25 Rh3, 26 Kg5, 27 Rh3, 28 Kg5, 29 Rh3, 30 Kg5, 31 Rh3, 32 Kg5, 33 Rh3, 34 Kg5, 35 Rh3, 36 Kg5, 37 Rh3, 38 Kg5, 39 Rh3, 40 Kg5, 41 Rh3, 42 Kg5, 43 Rh3, 44 Kg5, 45 Rh3, 46 Kg5, 47 Rh3, 48 Kg5, 49 Rh3, 50 Kg5, 51 Rh3, 52 Kg5, 53 Rh3, 54 Kg5, 55 Rh3, 56 Kg5, 57 Rh3, 58 Kg5, 59 Rh3, 60 Kg5, 61 Rh3, 62 Kg5, 63 Rh3, 64 Kg5, 65 Rh3, 66 Kg5, 67 Rh3, 68 Kg5, 69 Rh3, 70 Kg5, 71 Rh3, 72 Kg5, 73 Rh3, 74 Kg5, 75 Rh3, 76 Kg5, 77 Rh3, 78 Kg5, 79 Rh3, 80 Kg5, 81 Rh3, 82 Kg5, 83 Rh3, 84 Kg5, 85 Rh3, 86 Kg5, 87 Rh3, 88 Kg5, 89 Rh3, 90 Kg5, 91 Rh3, 92 Kg5, 93 Rh3, 94 Kg5, 95 Rh3, 96 Kg5, 97 Rh3, 98 Kg5, 99 Rh3, 100 Kg5, 101 Rh3, 102 Kg5, 103 Rh3, 104 Kg5, 105 Rh3, 106 Kg5, 107 Rh3, 108 Kg5, 109 Rh3, 110 Kg5, 111 Rh3, 112 Kg5, 113 Rh3, 114 Kg5, 115 Rh3, 116 Kg5, 117 Rh3, 118 Kg5, 119 Rh3, 120 Kg5, 121 Rh3, 122 Kg5, 123 Rh3, 124 Kg5, 125 Rh3, 126 Kg5, 127 Rh3, 128 Kg5, 129 Rh3, 130 Kg5, 131 Rh3, 132 Kg5, 133 Rh3, 134 Kg5, 135 Rh3, 136 Kg5, 137 Rh3, 138 Kg5, 139 Rh3, 140 Kg5, 141 Rh3, 142 Kg5, 143 Rh3, 144 Kg5, 145 Rh3, 146 Kg5, 147 Rh3, 148 Kg5, 149 Rh3, 150 Kg5, 151 Rh3, 152 Kg5, 153 Rh3, 154 Kg5, 155 Rh3, 156 Kg5, 157 Rh3, 158 Kg5, 159 Rh3, 160 Kg5, 161 Rh3, 162 Kg5, 163 Rh3, 164 Kg5, 165 Rh3, 166 Kg5, 167 Rh3, 168 Kg5, 169 Rh3, 170 Kg5, 171 Rh3, 172 Kg5, 173 Rh3, 174 Kg5, 175 Rh3, 176 Kg5, 177 Rh3, 178 Kg5, 179 Rh3, 180 Kg5, 181 Rh3, 182 Kg5, 183 Rh3, 184 Kg5, 185 Rh3, 186 Kg5, 187 Rh3, 188 Kg5, 189 Rh3, 190 Kg5, 191 Rh3, 192 Kg5, 193 Rh3, 194 Kg5, 195 Rh3, 196 Kg5, 197 Rh3, 198 Kg5, 199 Rh3, 200 Kg5, 201 Rh3, 202 Kg5, 203 Rh3, 204 Kg5, 205 Rh3, 206 Kg5, 207 Rh3, 208 Kg5, 209 Rh3, 210 Kg5, 211 Rh3, 212 Kg5, 213 Rh3, 214 Kg5, 215 Rh3, 216 Kg5, 217 Rh3, 218 Kg5, 219 Rh3, 220 Kg5, 221 Rh3, 222 Kg5, 223 Rh3, 224 Kg5, 225 Rh3, 226 Kg5, 227 Rh3, 228 Kg5, 229 Rh3, 230 Kg5, 231 Rh3, 232 Kg5, 233 Rh3, 234 Kg5, 235 Rh3, 236 Kg5, 237 Rh3, 238 Kg5, 239 Rh3, 240 Kg5, 241 Rh3, 242 Kg5, 243 Rh3, 244 Kg5, 245 Rh3, 246 Kg5, 247 Rh3, 248 Kg5, 249 Rh3, 250 Kg5, 251 Rh3, 252 Kg5, 253 Rh3, 254 Kg5, 255 Rh3, 256 Kg5, 257 Rh3, 258 Kg5, 259 Rh3, 260 Kg5, 261 Rh3, 262 Kg5, 263 Rh3, 264 Kg5, 265 Rh3, 266 Kg5, 267 Rh3, 268 Kg5, 269 Rh3, 270 Kg5, 271 Rh3, 272 Kg5, 273 Rh3, 274 Kg5, 275 Rh3, 276 Kg5, 277 Rh3, 278 Kg5, 279 Rh3, 280 Kg5, 281 Rh3, 282 Kg5, 283 Rh3, 284 Kg5, 285 Rh3, 286 Kg5, 287 Rh3, 288 Kg5, 289 Rh3, 290 Kg5, 291 Rh3, 292 Kg5, 293 Rh3, 294 Kg5, 295 Rh3, 296 Kg5, 297 Rh3, 298 Kg5, 299 Rh3, 300 Kg5, 301 Rh3, 302 Kg5, 303 Rh3, 304 Kg5, 305 Rh3, 306 Kg5, 307 Rh3, 308 Kg5, 309 Rh3, 310 Kg5, 311 Rh3, 312 Kg5, 313 Rh3, 314 Kg5, 315 Rh3, 316 Kg5, 317 Rh3, 318 Kg5, 319 Rh3, 320 Kg5, 321 Rh3, 322 Kg5, 323 Rh3, 324 Kg5, 325 Rh3, 326 Kg5, 327 Rh3, 328 Kg5, 329 Rh3, 330 Kg5, 331 Rh3, 332 Kg5, 333 Rh3, 334 Kg5, 335 Rh3, 336 Kg5, 337 Rh3, 338 Kg5, 339 Rh3, 340 Kg5, 341 Rh3, 342 Kg5, 343 Rh3, 344 Kg5, 345 Rh3, 346 Kg5, 347 Rh3, 348 Kg5, 349 Rh3, 350 Kg5, 351 Rh3, 352 Kg5, 353 Rh3, 354 Kg5, 355 Rh3, 356 Kg5, 357 Rh3, 358 Kg5, 359 Rh3, 360 Kg5, 361 Rh3, 362 Kg5, 363 Rh3, 364 Kg5, 365 Rh3, 366 Kg5, 367 Rh3, 368 Kg5, 369 Rh3, 370 Kg5, 371 Rh3, 372 Kg5, 373 Rh3, 374 Kg5, 375 Rh3, 376 Kg5, 377 Rh3, 378 Kg5, 379 Rh3, 380 Kg5, 381 Rh3, 382 Kg5, 383 Rh3, 384 Kg5, 385 Rh3, 386 Kg5, 387 Rh3, 388 Kg5, 389 Rh3, 390 Kg5, 391 Rh3, 392 Kg5, 393 Rh3, 394 Kg5, 395 Rh3, 396 Kg5, 397 Rh3, 398 Kg5, 399 Rh3, 400 Kg5, 401 Rh3, 402 Kg5, 403 Rh3, 404 Kg5, 405 Rh3, 406 Kg5, 407 Rh3, 408 Kg5, 409 Rh3, 410 Kg5, 411 Rh3, 412 Kg5, 413 Rh3, 414 Kg5, 415 Rh3, 416 Kg5, 417 Rh3, 418 Kg5, 419 Rh3, 420 Kg5, 421 Rh3, 422 Kg5, 423 Rh3, 424 Kg5, 425 Rh3, 426 Kg5, 427 Rh3, 428 Kg5, 429 Rh3, 430 Kg5, 431 Rh3, 432 Kg5, 433 Rh3, 434 Kg5, 435 Rh3, 436 Kg5, 437 Rh3, 438 Kg5, 439 Rh3, 440 Kg5, 441 Rh3, 442 Kg5, 443 Rh3, 444 Kg5, 445 Rh3, 446 Kg5, 447 Rh3, 448 Kg5, 449 Rh3, 450 Kg5, 451 Rh3, 452 Kg5, 453 Rh3, 454 Kg5, 455 Rh3, 456 Kg5, 457 Rh3, 458 Kg5, 459 Rh3, 460 Kg5, 461 Rh3, 462 Kg5, 463 Rh3, 464 Kg5, 465 Rh3, 466 Kg5, 467 Rh3, 468 Kg5, 469 Rh3, 470 Kg5, 471 Rh3, 472 Kg5, 473 Rh3, 474 Kg5, 475 Rh3, 476 Kg5, 477 Rh3, 478 Kg5, 479 Rh3, 480 Kg5, 481 Rh3, 482 Kg5, 483 Rh3, 484 Kg5, 485 Rh3, 486 Kg5, 487 Rh3, 488 Kg5, 489 Rh3, 490 Kg5, 491 Rh3, 492 Kg5, 493 Rh3, 494 Kg5, 495 Rh3, 496 Kg5, 497 Rh3, 498 Kg5, 499 Rh3, 500 Kg5, 501 Rh3, 502 Kg5, 503 Rh3, 504 Kg5, 505 Rh3, 506 Kg5, 507 Rh3, 508 Kg5, 509 Rh3, 510 Kg5, 511 Rh3, 512 Kg5, 513 Rh3, 514 Kg5, 515 Rh3, 516 Kg5, 517 Rh3, 518 Kg5, 519 Rh3, 520 Kg5, 521 Rh3, 522 Kg5, 523 Rh3, 524 Kg5, 525 Rh3, 526 Kg5, 527 Rh3, 528 Kg5, 529 Rh3, 530 Kg5, 531 Rh3, 532 Kg5, 533 Rh3, 534 Kg5, 535 Rh3, 536 Kg5, 537 Rh3, 538 Kg5, 539 Rh3, 540 Kg5, 541 Rh3, 542 Kg5, 543 Rh3, 544 Kg5, 545 Rh3, 546 Kg5, 547 Rh3, 548 Kg5, 549 Rh3, 550 Kg5, 551 Rh3, 552 Kg5, 553 Rh3, 554 Kg5, 555 Rh3, 556 Kg5, 557 Rh3, 558 Kg5, 559 Rh3, 560 Kg5, 561 Rh3, 562 Kg5, 563 Rh3, 564 Kg5, 565 Rh3, 566 Kg5, 567 Rh3, 568 Kg5, 569 Rh3, 570 Kg5, 571 Rh3, 572 Kg5, 573 Rh3, 574 Kg5, 575 Rh3, 576 Kg5, 577 Rh3, 578 Kg5, 579 Rh3, 580 Kg5, 581 Rh3, 582 Kg5, 583 Rh3, 584 Kg5, 585 Rh3, 586 Kg5, 587 Rh3, 588 Kg5, 589 Rh3, 590 Kg5, 591 Rh3, 592 Kg5, 593 Rh3, 594 Kg5, 595 Rh3, 596 Kg5, 597 Rh3, 598 Kg5, 599 Rh3, 600 Kg5, 601 Rh3, 602 Kg5, 603 Rh3, 604 Kg5, 605 Rh3, 606 Kg5, 607 Rh3, 608 Kg5, 609 Rh3, 610 Kg5, 611 Rh3, 612 Kg5, 613 Rh3, 614 Kg5, 615 Rh3, 616 Kg5, 617 Rh3, 618 Kg5, 619 Rh3, 620 Kg5, 621 Rh3, 622 Kg5, 623 Rh3, 624 Kg5, 625 Rh3, 626 Kg5, 627 Rh3, 628 Kg5, 629 Rh3, 630 Kg5, 631 Rh3, 632 Kg5, 633 Rh3, 634 Kg5, 635 Rh3, 636 Kg5, 637 Rh3, 638 Kg5, 639 Rh3, 640 Kg5, 641 Rh3, 642 Kg5, 643 Rh3, 644 Kg5, 645 Rh3, 646 Kg5, 647 Rh3, 648 Kg5, 649 Rh3, 650 Kg5, 651 Rh3, 652 Kg5, 653 Rh3, 654 Kg5, 655 Rh3, 656 Kg5, 657 Rh3, 658 Kg5, 659 Rh3, 660 Kg5, 661 Rh3, 662 Kg5, 663 Rh3, 664 Kg5, 665 Rh3, 666 Kg5, 667 Rh3, 668 Kg5, 669 Rh3, 670 Kg5, 671 Rh3, 672 Kg5, 673 Rh3, 674 Kg5, 675 Rh3, 676 Kg5, 677 Rh3, 678 Kg5, 679 Rh3, 680 Kg5, 681 Rh3, 682 Kg5, 683 Rh3, 684 Kg5, 685 Rh3, 686 Kg5, 687 Rh3, 688 Kg5, 689 Rh3, 690 Kg5, 691 Rh3, 692 Kg5, 693 Rh3, 694 Kg5, 695 Rh3, 696 Kg5, 697 Rh3, 698 Kg5, 699 Rh3, 700 Kg5, 701 Rh3, 702 Kg5, 703 Rh3, 704 Kg5, 705 Rh3, 706 Kg5, 707 Rh3, 708 Kg5, 709 Rh3, 710 Kg5, 711 Rh3, 712 Kg5, 713 Rh3, 714 Kg5, 715 Rh3, 716 Kg5, 717 Rh3, 718 Kg5, 719 Rh3, 720 Kg5, 721 Rh3, 722 Kg5, 723 Rh3, 724 Kg5, 725 Rh3, 726 Kg5, 727 Rh3, 728 Kg5, 729 Rh3, 730 Kg5, 731 Rh3, 732 Kg5, 733 Rh3, 734 Kg5, 735 Rh3, 736 Kg5, 737 Rh3, 738 Kg5, 739 Rh3, 740 Kg5, 741 Rh3, 742 Kg5, 743 Rh3, 744 Kg5, 745 Rh3, 746 Kg5, 747 Rh3, 748 Kg5, 749 Rh3, 750 Kg5, 751 Rh3, 752 Kg5, 753 Rh3, 754 Kg5, 755 Rh3, 756 Kg5, 757 Rh3, 758 Kg5, 759 Rh3, 760 Kg5, 761 Rh3, 762 Kg5, 763 Rh3, 764 Kg5, 765 Rh3, 766 Kg5, 767 Rh3, 768 Kg5, 769 Rh3, 770 Kg5, 771 Rh3, 772 Kg5, 773 Rh3, 774 Kg5, 775 Rh3, 776 Kg5, 777 Rh3, 778 Kg5, 779 Rh3, 780 Kg5, 781 Rh3, 782 Kg5, 783 Rh3, 784 Kg5, 785 Rh3, 786 Kg5, 787 Rh3, 788 Kg5, 789 Rh3, 790 Kg5, 791 Rh3, 792 Kg5, 793 Rh3, 794 Kg5, 795 Rh3, 796 Kg5, 797 Rh3, 798 Kg5, 799 Rh3, 800 Kg5, 801 Rh3, 802 Kg5, 803 Rh3, 804 Kg5, 805 Rh3, 806 Kg5, 807 Rh3, 808 Kg5, 809 Rh3, 810 Kg5, 811 Rh3, 812 Kg5, 813 Rh3, 814 Kg5, 815 Rh3, 816 Kg5, 817 Rh3, 818 Kg5, 819 Rh3, 820 Kg5, 821 Rh3, 822 Kg5, 823 Rh3, 824 Kg5, 825 Rh3, 826 Kg5, 827 Rh3, 828 Kg5, 829 Rh3, 830 Kg5, 831 Rh3, 832 Kg5, 833 Rh3, 834 Kg5, 835 Rh3, 836 Kg5, 837 Rh3, 838 Kg5, 839 Rh3, 840 Kg5, 841 Rh3, 842 Kg5, 843 Rh3, 844 Kg5, 845 Rh3, 846 Kg5, 847 Rh3, 848 Kg5, 849 Rh3, 850 Kg5, 851 Rh3, 852 Kg5, 853 Rh3, 854 Kg5, 855 Rh3, 856 Kg5, 857 Rh3, 858 Kg5, 859 Rh3, 860 Kg5, 861 Rh3, 862 Kg5, 863 Rh3, 864 Kg5, 865 Rh3, 866 Kg5, 867 Rh3, 868 Kg5, 869 Rh3, 870 Kg5, 871 Rh3, 872 Kg5, 873 Rh3, 874 Kg5, 875 Rh3, 876 Kg5, 877 Rh3, 878 Kg5, 879 Rh3, 880 Kg5, 881 Rh3, 882 Kg5, 883 Rh3, 884 Kg5, 885 Rh3, 886 Kg5, 887 Rh3, 888 Kg5, 889 Rh3, 890 Kg5, 891 Rh3, 892 Kg5, 893 Rh3, 894 Kg5, 895 Rh3, 896 Kg5, 897 Rh3, 898 Kg5, 899 Rh3, 900 Kg5, 901 Rh3, 902 Kg5, 903 Rh3, 904 Kg5, 905 Rh3, 906 Kg5, 907 Rh3, 908 Kg5, 909 Rh3, 910 Kg5, 911 Rh3, 912 Kg5, 913 Rh3, 914 Kg5, 915 Rh3, 916 Kg5, 917 Rh3, 918 Kg5, 919 Rh3, 920 Kg5, 921 Rh3, 922 Kg5, 923 Rh3, 924 Kg5, 925 Rh3, 926 Kg5, 927 Rh3, 928 Kg5, 929 Rh3, 930 Kg5, 931 Rh3, 932 Kg5, 933 Rh3, 934 Kg5, 935 Rh3, 936 Kg5, 937 Rh3, 938 Kg5, 939 Rh3, 940 Kg5, 941 Rh3, 942 Kg5, 943 Rh3, 944 Kg5, 945 Rh3, 946 Kg5, 947 Rh3, 948 Kg5, 949 Rh3, 950 Kg5, 951 Rh3, 952 Kg5, 953 Rh3, 954 Kg5, 955 Rh3, 956 Kg5, 957 Rh3, 958 Kg5, 959 Rh3, 960 Kg5, 961 Rh3, 962 Kg5, 96



Backley, now injury-free, believes he can improve markedly on his performances of 1996, when he was still good enough to win Olympic silver

David Powell, athletics correspondent, finds that Steve Backley still has several points to prove

While he has dodged the hot coals of injury sufficiently to appear in the championships, he has trodden on them often enough to have been severely restricted in appearances on the international circuit.

"The last few years I have not got much to contribute," Backley said.

"The mentality has been to get into as good a shape as I can for the championships and it has paid off. Now I want to get in amongst it on a weekly basis."

There is another reason interest in him cooled. British athlete came to expect too much as he took the world to his javelin boots at the turn of the decade. At 21, Backley won voted International Amateur Athletic Federation male world athlete of 1990.

"If I could take the No 1 slot again, I would be able to handle it better," Backley said. "At that age, I did not know what was going on. I went from being a student ranked fifteenth in the world to being No 1 and having to deal with contracts, travelling, press, time-light."

"Everybody was building me up and I pushed it and pushed it until my body broke down. I do not force the javelin any more. I flow with it. The rhythm of the event is very important and it was something I learned."

Backley's nadir was 1993, when he finished fourth in the world championships and managed only two competitions because of a shoulder injury. "I was depressed, but I got the hell out of my mind and didn't let it bother me," he says. "I don't let my mood or my sleep at night, and when it is serious enough to interfere with your day-to-day living, you think about quitting," he said.

"I could not lift my arm and I thought I was shadowing Fatima Whitbread's career — world record, European champion, Commonwealth champion, shoulder injury, stop. But that chapter is closed. What amuses me is that I have won Commonwealth and European gold, world and Olympic silver, and not been in great shape. That is what makes me think I can offer a lot more."

Another round of the Backley Challenge, this one at Bristol, sees him taking a keen interest in his event's future. The project to persuade youngsters to pick up a javelin has been going for five years, helping to produce English Schools' champions. Sponsored by Apollo and Sportsmatch at £35,000 per annum, close to 100,000 novices have been screened.

Backley has with him a batch of postcards, picturing him with a javelin and personally autographed, to give away. Mostly, though, these postcards go abroad, to countries where the javelin is unpopular. "I get tree-hugger letters and requests for autographs from Finland and Germany than I do from England," he said. He has a lot of *nikene* ahead of him.

ARE YOU pint sized
with a good body and
fruity? Do you have
impeccable taste and a
good head on your
shoulders and readily
available? I need you.
Reply Box 1824



FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT, IN MUNICH

THE new Great Britain coxless four of Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent, Peter Foster and James Cracknell, who Redgrave hopes will bring him fifth Olympic gold in Sydney, makes his first international appearance at the inaugural Fisa Rowing World Cup regatta here today.

More than 700 competitors from 37 countries have entered the three-day event, and the attraction of the new competition is illustrated by the unusual early-season attendance of countries such as Argentina, Canada, the United States and South Africa.

The second World Cup regatta will be in Paris, from June 20-22, with the finals in Lucerne, Switzerland, from July 11-13. The competition includes the 14 Olympic boat classes, and points gained at the three regattas will lead to World Cup champions in each class, and to an overall World Cup champion nation.

Britain has entries in ten of the 14 World Cup events and, like many other countries, there are next-week combinations. The 1987-88 season, with Redgrave and Pinssens's new venture inevitably drawing most interest. Another Olympic gold medal-winner, Greg Searle, has converted to sculling this year and will have a sterner test in Munich in the single than he had in Italy earlier this month, when he finished second behind Egyptian Ibrahim Ali.

Britain's more established female sculler, Olympic finalist Guin Batten, took gold and silver against strong opposition in Cologne a month ago and was also to be defeated from a winner's training in Hong Kong. She will be coached by Mike Forbes-Thomas but, since January, the rest of the British women's squad has been coached by Mike Spradken, who has formed two quad sculls for the leading performers.

The lightweight men's squad is now under the control of Sean Bowden and the entry this year is headed by the World Cup by two experienced fours, one from London and the other from Nottingham. The Nottingham crew includes Jira McNiven and Dave Lemon, who were members of the Olympic four.

The British men's heavyweight eight, composed of London University, Imperial College and Leander members, has a youthful look, with seven new winners on board from the world under-23 championships last year. The coxless pair selection, the preserve of Redgrave and Pinsent through the 1990s, has been taken over by two Atlanta performers, Rob Thatcher, who was Cracknell's doubles partner, and Ben Hunt-Davis, who was in the eight.

HOCKEY

SIX of the players who lost the bronze medal play-off to Holland at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year will be in the squad to play the Dutch in Great Britain's opening game at the Champions Trophy in Berlin on Sunday (a Correspondent writes).

England, who have been chosen to represent Britain at this tournament for the top six countries in the world, are using the event as part of their build-up to the World Cup qualifying competition in Harare, Zimbabwe, in August and will be led by a new captain, Mandy Davies.

Davies, who, has 143 international caps for

England and Great Britain, admitted that meeting the Olympic champions, Australia, the highly-rated Korea, as well as Holland, Germany and United States will be a tough test for the younger English players.

"Our first game won't be approaching our true strength as we're going for what happened in Atlanta — it's just the first international in a tournament."

GREAT BRITAIN: Steve Luccombe, K Bowden (Leicester), P Miller (Leicester), J Mould (Leicester), K Brown (Sheff), I Coppard (Sheff), J Smith (Sheff), J Cohen (Harrow), G Reid (Harrow), D Fothergill (Harrow), S Hoggins (Harrow), N Smith (St Albans), R Jones (University of Massachusetts), L Wright (Oxon), M Davies (Sutton Coldfield), J Stratton (Suton)

Visions of Snowdonia
BBC2, 8.00pm

Thoughts that this series might turn into a promotion for the Welsh tourist board are rudely dispelled in tonight's film, which focuses on a dilapidated quarry in the shadow of Snowdon but shaming none of its glories. Deniolen once had the largest slate quarry in the world. The community depended on an industry which employed 5,000 people. But the quarry closed in 1969 and the village has been left with a crumbling council estate, where most people are out of work and the disenfranchised young turn to vandalism. The residents, led by a doughy housewife, Denise Williams, battle to improve their lot. It is left to the old timers to remember the better days, when the quarry was the lifeblood of the town, but a camera crew that began filming in 1990, and has been

The Fast Show
BBC2, 9.00pm

Many good things have been written about *The Fast Show* and particularly its leading lights, Paul White and Charlie Higson, and there are many good things in it. And because it catches topically, it bears repeating. We are into the second showing of series two and even those who followed it joke by joke the first time round should still find much that is fresh. With more than 20 years of experience, the show is a veteran and lives up to its title. Good or bad there is no danger of being bored. Inevitably there are misfires. The spoof football manager bombs because there are plenty of funnier examples of the real thing. But set against that are delicious parodies of *Forrest Gump* and old radio shows and a sledge for the *Top Gear* presenter who has been out of his seat.

Drivers' Gold
BBC1, 9.30pm

They are the ingredients of scores of westerns: an epic cattle drive, good guys and bad guys and a touch of romance. But we are in Wales, not Hollywood, for Michael Chaplin's five-part drama set in the 1840s. When tenant farmer Ruth (Geraldine James) is threatened with eviction by the evil landowner (John Standing), her son (Andrew Howard) gathers their beggi together.

RADIO

Bath International Music Festival
Radio 3, 7.30pm

The 17-day Bath Festival is one of the leading arts events of summer and this year its organisers have been at pains to stress the festival's diversity, with music from most of the disciplines being featured. Tonight's live broadcast from the Assembly Rooms is however a mainstream programme, featuring two string quartets and one quintet. The former are by Haydn and Schoenberg, and the quintet, after the interval, is by Brahms. The performers are the Endellion Quartet, who are the artists in residence at this year's festival. The interval feature tonight, at 8.25 and also from the festival, presents a rare chance to hear the music of the 19th-century English composer John Goss. He will be reading extracts from his last book of poems, *Canadian*, first heard at Poetry International last year.

Celtic drivers at the ready (BBC1, 9.30)

recruits a motley band to share the journey and sets off for Smithfield market in London. The screenplay is not short of incident. Tonight's feature-length opener contains a rape, a suicide, an attack by bandits and a rift in the ranks over whether to drive the cattle on a Sunday. Yet for all this activity, and solid support from such reliable veterans as David Calder, Freddie Jones and Robert Pugh, this well-made drama is just a shade lacking in pace and excitement.

Harry Hill
Channel 4, 10.30pm

The funny thing about Harry Hill, among many funny things, is that a comedian with such an over-the-top, campy prop — the bald head, the thick-rimmed glasses, the huge stiletto collar — should come across so effectively on radio. There was a reminder only recently with the latest series of *Harry Hill's Fruit Corner*. It was the same with the Goons, from whom Hill has inherited a similarly anarchic and surreal sense of humor. The only difference is, never mind radio, he's come exclusively to television. Hill does. He was one of the best things in the otherwise disappointing *Saturday Night Live* last year and now he has his own TV series. Those familiar with the *Fruit Corner* can expect many of the same delights, including the old Nana, the adopted son, and the running gag about the three talking monkeys. But it's the verbal contortions and the wacky Korkus as stage characters that will make

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Law in Action:
Radio 4, 8.50pm.

There are some subjects which continue to absorb us even though they are impossible to resolve in any definitive way. One such is the ownership of treasures and antiquities. Harlequinade reports of the legal retorticolle surrounding items which in many cases, let us face it, have been looted from overseas. There was some surprise when the incoming Labour Government announced in its first week that the Elgin Marbles would not be going back to Greece; but there are countless other artefacts - on our museums - and in private hands - which have kept socialist lawyers in business for many years. Not the least of the problems is that laws in one country sometimes contradict those in another. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Redcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley
2.00pm Nicky Campbell, Includes Afternoon Lowfiest 4.00
Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pets Tong — Essential
Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 3.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Wives Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce
11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Diane Louise Jordan 3.00 Ed
Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Green 7.30 Friday Night
is Music Night 9.15 Last Orders (R/T) 9.30 A Taste of Brass
10.00 Sheridan Morley 11.00 The Jacques Loussier Trio
12.05am Sam McGarry Inc at 2.30 Pause for Thought with
Pauline Webb

RADIO 5 LIVE

5:00 News Morning Reports 6:00 The Breakfast Programme 9:00 The Magazine 12:00 Midday with Mike 2:30 Ruscoe on Five 4:00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7:00 News Extra 7:30 Friday Sport. Includes Leeds Rhinos v. Warrington Wolves and Wigan Warriors v. Paris Saint-Germain in the Stanes Super League 10:00 Paper Talk with Brian Alexander and Jay Rayner; 11:00 News Extra 12:00 After Hours with Allen Beswick 2:00 News Up All Night with Richard Delvin

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00
Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd
4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportszone
10.00 Mike Allen 1.00pm Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

48 Places in **BSF**, News on the hour, **5:00pm** News Today **5:30**
Europe Today **7:25** The World Today **7:30** Risk of the World
8:15/07 of the Street **8:30** Music Review **8:15** Praises for Thought
9:15 Performance **9:30** John Peel **10:05** Business **10:15** Book
1 **10:30** BBC Election **10:45** Sport **11:30** News Assignments
2 **11:45** News **12:00** News **12:15** News **12:30** News
1 **1:30** Victoria of Reality **1:45** Sport **2:00** News **2:05** News **2:30** Outlook
2:30 Outlook: Alternative **2:45** Football **2:45** A Little Twist of
of Culture **3:00** News in German **3:00** Europe Today **3:30**
of Culture **3:30** News in German **3:45** Sport **4:00** News
P **4:00** News in German **4:15** Sport **4:30** News
P **4:30** News in German **4:45** Sport **5:00** News
P **5:00** News in German **5:15** Sport **5:30** News
P **5:30** News in German **5:45** Sport **6:00** News
P **6:00** News in German **6:15** Sport **6:30** News
P **6:30** News in German **6:45** Sport **7:00** News
P **7:00** News in German **7:15** Sport **7:30** News
P **7:30** News in German **7:45** Sport **8:00** News
P **8:00** News in German **8:15** Sport **8:30** News
P **8:30** News in German **8:45** Sport **9:00** News
P **9:00** News in German **9:15** Sport **9:30** News
P **9:30** News in German **9:45** Sport **10:00** News
P **10:00** News in German **10:15** Sport **10:30** News
P **10:30** News in German **10:45** Sport **11:00** News
P **11:00** News in German **11:15** Sport **11:30** News
P **11:30** News in German **11:45** Sport **12:00** News
P **12:00** News in German **12:15** Sport **12:30** News
P **12:30** News in German **12:45** Sport **1:00** News
P **1:00** News in German **1:15** Sport **1:30** News
P **1:30** News in German **1:45** Sport **2:00** News
P **2:00** News in German **2:15** Sport **2:30** News
P **2:30** News in German **2:45** Sport **3:00** News
P **3:00** News in German **3:15** Sport **3:30** News
P **3:30** News in German **3:45** Sport **4:00** News
P **4:00** News in German **4:15** Sport **4:30** News
P **4:30** News in German **4:45** Sport **5:00** News
P **5:00** News in German **5:15** Sport **5:30** News
P **5:30** News in German **5:45** Sport **6:00** News
P **6:00** News in German **6:15** Sport **6:30** News
P **6:30** News in German **6:45** Sport **7:00** News
P **7:00** News in German **7:15** Sport **7:30** News
P **7:30** News in German **7:45** Sport **8:00** News
P **8:00** News in German **8:15** Sport **8:30** News
P **8:30** News in German **8:45** Sport **9:00** News
P **9:00** News in German **9:15** Sport **9:30** News
P **9:30** News in German **9:45** Sport **10:00** News
P **10:00** News in German **10:15** Sport **10:30** News
P **10:30** News in German **10:45** Sport **11:00** News
P **11:00** News in German **11:15** Sport **11:30** News
P **11:30** News in German **11:45** Sport **12:00** News
P **12:00** News in German **12:15** Sport **12:30** News
P **12:30** News in German **12:45** Sport **1:00** News
P **1:00** News in German **1:15** Sport **1:30** News
P **1:30** News in German **1:45** Sport **2:00** News
P **2:00** News in German **2:15** Sport **2:30** News
P **2:30** News in German **2:45** Sport **3:00** News
P **3:00** News in German **3:15** Sport **3:30** News
P **3:30** News in German **3:45** Sport **4:00** News
P **4:00** News in German **4:15** Sport **4:30** News
P **4:30** News in German **4:45** Sport **5:00** News
P **5:00** News in German **5:15** Sport **5:30** News
P **5:30** News in German **5:45** Sport **6:00** News
P **6:00** News in German **6:15** Sport **6:30** News
P **6:30** News in German **6:45** Sport **7:00** News
P **7:00** News in German **7:15** Sport **7:30** News
P **7:30** News in German **7:45** Sport **8:00** News
P **8:00** News in German **8:15** Sport **8:30** News
P **8:30** News in German **8:45** Sport **9:00** News
P **9:00** News in German **9:15** Sport **9:30** News
P **9:30** News in German **9:45** Sport **10:00** News
P **10:00** News in German **10:15** Sport **10:30** News
P **10:30** News in German **10:45** Sport **11:00** News
P **11:00** News in German **11:15** Sport **11:30** News
P **11:30** News in German **11:45** Sport **12:00** News
P **12:00** News in German **12:15** Sport **12:30** News
P **12:30** News in German **12:45** Sport **1:00** News
P **1:00** News in German **1:15** Sport **1:30** News
P **1:30** News in German **1:45** Sport **2:00** News
P **2:00** News in German **2:15** Sport **2:30** News
P **2:30** News in German **2:45** Sport **3:00** News
P **3:00** News in German **3:15** Sport **3:30** News
P **3:30** News in German **3:45** Sport **4:00** News
P **4:00** News in German **4:15** Sport **4:30** News
P **4:30** News in German **4:45** Sport **5:00** News
P **5:00** News in German **5:15** Sport **5:30** News
P **5:30** News in German **5:45** Sport **6:00** News
P **6:00** News in German **6:15** Sport **6:30** News
P **6:30** News in German **6:45** Sport **7:00** News
P **7:00** News in German **7:15** Sport **7:30** News
P **7:30** News in German **7:45** Sport **8:00** News
P **8:00** News in German **8:15** Sport **8:30** News
P **8:30** News in German **8:45** Sport **9:00** News
P **9:00** News in German **9:15** Sport **9:30** News
P **9:30** News in German **9:45** Sport **10:00** News
P **10:00** News in German **10:15** Sport **10:30** News
P **10:30** News in German **10:45** Sport **11:00** News
P **11:00** News in German **11:15** Sport **11:30** News
P **11:30** News in German **11:45** Sport **12:00** News
P **12:00** News in German **12:15** Sport **12:30** News
P **12:30** News in German **12:45** Sport **1:00** News
P **1:00** News in German **1:15** Sport **1:30** News
P **1:30** News in German **1:45** Sport **2:00** News
P **2:00** News in German **2:15** Sport **2:30** News
P **2:30** News in German **2:45** Sport **3:00** News
P **3:00** News in German

CLASSIC FM

8.00am Mark Griffiths 7.00 Mike Read 8.00 Hall of Fame Hour
10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto 3.00 Janie Crick 7.00
Newnight 7.30 Samira 8.00 Evening Concert. Includes Mozart
(A Musical Joke); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor, Op
38). 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00pm Concerto 1

VIRGIN RADIO

8.00am Russ 11.00am Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham
Dunn 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Conner
(FM) / Robin Harris (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark
Ford 2.00pm Howard Peters

VIRGIN RADIO

8.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham
Dine 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 7.00 Paul Coyle
(FM)/Robin Banks (AM) 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark
Forrest 2.00pm Howard Pearce

RADIC 3

Orlitz, senior; Raymond Hefkoth and Thomas Henley, baritone; the Montverdi Chok and Orchestra; under John Eliot Gardner.

5.00 **Music Machine**, Young Composers' Workshop. Varsity Spring follows the progress of Scott Kennedy, a ranch as he writes a piece for members of the BBC Philharmonic.

5.15 **In Tune**, Presented by Jeremy Nicholas. Includes Wallace (Overture: Martini); Mozart (Hom Concerto in E flat, K455); C.P.E. Bach (Symphony in E minor, Wq176); Aarony (Piano Trio in D minor, Op 32).

7.30 **3rd International Music Festival**, See Choice 6.20.

8.00 **Bruce Chastain** (U2, Read by Anthony Hyde (5/5) 1989).

8.15 **Music Machine**, Young Composers' Workshop. concert of postwar and post-war German music: John Oxford, bassoon; Rosemary Hardy, soprano; Andre Wilms, speaker; John Sinfantini under the baton; Wallace (Piano Trio in D minor, first UK performance); Dietlev Ganiel (Gestalt, first UK performance); Bernd Farnig (Seasons of Light, first performance); Rihm (Abschiedsstrucke, first performance); Schostakovich (La Jalousie).

11.30 **Composer of the Week: Handel** (17).

12.30 **Item Jazz** as is Lee. The second of three programmes in which Matt Hill explores the life and work of the legendary jazz legend Lee, who celebrated his 77th birthday this year.

1.00 **Through the Night**, with Donald Macleod. Includes 1.00 Bach (Cantata No 214, 209, 204 and 212); 1.25 Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in F); 1.50 Brahms (Symphony No 1); 1.55 Schubert (Zemlinsky (Guitar Symphony) A 15 in D minor); 2.00 Karper, guitar, performs music by Johann Rietz; 4.00 Mozart (Symphony No 38 in B flat, K319); 4.10 Beethoven (Op. 141-8; Overture: Bester); 4.10 Joplin, Ragtime (The Ragtime Piano).

RADIO 4

- 6.00 Six O'Clock News
- 6.30 Growing Seasons, Professor David Stevens visits the Scottish Horticultural Society show in Scotland and Ed Stark examines the popularity of alpinists
- 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
- 7.25 Pick of the Week, Chris Sale presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio and television
- 7.30 Andy Oakesley's Journal, Dorothy chairs the first of her series from Cannock, Staffordshire, with topical debate from Cannock and journalist David Mitchell; the broadcaster and columnist David Mitchell; the broadcaster and columnist David Mitchell; the broadcaster and columnist David Mitchell
- 8.00 News, President of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge Professor Robert Winston, Labour peer, and fertility expert
- 8.50 Let's in Action, Sex Choice
- 9.15 Letter from America, Another slice of life - 'Statistess served up by Alastair Cooke'
- 9.30 Goodhousewives Featuring The Dame Judi Dench interview The current affairs programme to Paul Allen as she begins a new role in David Lane's play, *Any View at the National Theatre in London*
- 10.00 The Week Tonight, with Robin Lustig
- 10.45 Book Reviews, *Walt Whitman in the Country*, by J.L. Carr. Read by Samuel West
- 11.00 Week Ending, A satirical look at the week's news with Jon Goffe, Sally Groves, Dave Lamb and Sara Hanson
- 11.25 Fourth Column, Presented by Times columnist John Diamond
- 11.45 Letters from Another Time, Michael Gorkhark reflects on New York
- 12.00 The World This Week, Barbara: The Writer's Tale, by Barbara Merrett, Read by Joanna Marrow (2/2)
- 12.15 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 AM News

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-98.8, RADIO 2, FM 98.0-99.2, RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6, LW 198; MW 720, RADIO 5, LIVE, FM 93.8, 306; WORST SERVICE, MW 648, LW 198 (12.45-5.59pm). CLASSIC FM, FM 100.2, VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 4197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1053, 1083.
 *Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Neil Hoghee, Rosemary South, Susan Thomas, Gregory and John McInnes.

All action and not nearly enough character

I came to bury *Bodyguards* (ITV), really I did. Since its moderately bright opening a month ago, my weekly rendezvous with the boys and girls of the Close Protection Group has become less and less of a priority. Poor characterisation, indifferent plots and the gradual realisation that, while Dis Shaw (Louise Lombard) and Worrell (Sean Pertwee) are easy on the eye they are rubbish at their jobs, had tried my patience too often. Last night was its last chance. And, dammit, it got one.

But before I lapse into eulogy let's not get carried away. The problems are still there and the biggest of them all is Shaw and Worrell, the central couple on which so much riding has failed.

Individually, Lombard and Pertwee are both fine actors, but in coming together for *Bodyguards* they are less than the sum of their parts. That, however, is not all their fault. The directors and

writers have been concentrating so hard on getting the expensive whizz-bangs of counter-intelligence right that they have neglected the need to create some genuine personality. The result? Shaw and Worrell don't have any. In fact, if there's a duller pair of coppers this side of *Crime Traveler* I'll eat next week's *Wokenwell*.

Then there's the dialogue. Last night, Worrell was sitting in a safe-house guarding a traitor (as you do) and trying to write a birthday card to his daughter. Given that Gemma's mother, Worrell's former wife, was shot dead in front of her in episode one, you'd think even the most committed career policeman would make a special effort, but no — a card would do.

"Somehow I'm never really there for the moments that matter," he whined. Anyway, with that he posted it in a letter-box, which a few minutes later was blown up by a KGB double agent, and the

writers forgot to make any capital out of the fact that the birthday card would have got blown up, too. It's the small things that matter.

But last night the big things were so good, you could almost forgive the deficiencies of the subplot. At last, John Shrapnell had the heavyweight plot and the heavyweight supporting cast to make sense of his rather theatrical performance as Commander MacIntyre. Leading that cast was Michael Williams, who for one night only (sadly) swapped light comedy for high treason but called on the same reserves of affable charm to play Maurice Boyd, until he defected to the Russians, was very big at MI6. Cleverly, Williams made Boyd so likable a traitor that we could all share the same sense of betrayal that MacIntyre, a former friend and colleague, was growing about so deeply.



Matthew Bond

Anyway, Boyd had been allowed back to Britain to bury his recently deceased grandfather and it was CPG's job to stop anybody such as MI6 or distinguished Oxford academics who are recruiting officers for the KGB from killing him. For once, they managed it (hurrah!), helped it must be said by somewhat improbable displays of insight by MacIntyre (when it comes to car-

bon tetrachloride in oil sumps or bombs in coffins he's your man) and lots of cleverly maintained tension from Julian Jones, the writer. The building-blocks of plot may have been culled from newspaper headlines, but put this particular set together quite beautifully. Right down to the explosive twist at the end.

Over on BBC2, Tracks returned for a new series, looking more like a trendy biology or geography lesson than ever. A couple of new presenters, some wobbly new camera angles and there you have it: natural history for those who weren't paying attention the first time. Or missed *Blue Peter* when Graham Dangerfield told us the difference between frogs and toads.

Two things were missing last night — three if you count Pete McCarthy, whose much heralded arrival from Channel 4's *Travelog* has yet to materialise. The first

was any item that made you think: yes, I'd like to have a go at that. In a series designed to help us all embrace the great outdoors the second was a distinct feeling that what we were watching was seriously prerecorded. But then snowdrops in May do tend to be a bit of a give-away, don't they?

With nobody taking the role of main presenter, the overall result is a curiously lifeless programme that is probably the exact opposite of what its energetic young team intended. What it needed was topicality, somebody just to say "nice weather we're having, so why don't you go out and try..." Instead, we had Nick Fisher doing his bit for amber collecting.

With McCarthy not yet on board, the nearest programme made a star is Ray Mears, a man who can survive in all weathers

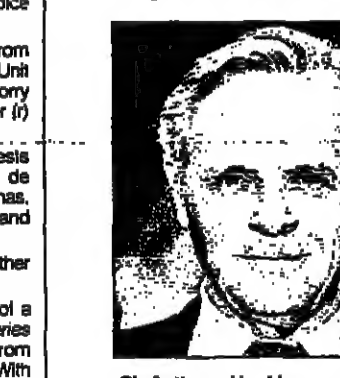
but doesn't seem to have learnt how to shave in any of them. Last night he went for a walk in Surrey, the county where he first got interested in bushcraft. And his number one survival tip? Never cook a sausage on a stick from the wayfaring tree.

Finally, All at Sea set sail on Channel 4 and left me feeling precisely that. The *Carnival Destiny* is one of those huge but characterless cruise-liners, built in Italy to transport overweight Americans around the Caribbean. The fact that it has one or two Brits among its multi-ethnic crew does not an unmissable series make. Still, it had its moments, among them the youth director with the customer-relation skills of a cornered rattlesnake and the Latin American and Caribbean waiting staff, who marked the ship's first Thanksgiving dinner by mass-singing *God Bless America*. Land of the what-was-it?

6.00am Business Breakfast (57295)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (45363)
7.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (3533672)
9.20 Style Challenge (5084188)
9.45 Killy (7339837)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7853)
11.00 News (1) and weather (7173382)
11.05 The Great Escape (1) (7530382)
11.35 Real Roads (800986)
12.00 News (1) and weather (8700553)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (1455059)
12.35 Mary Berry at Home (8860509)
1.00 News (1) and weather (49450)
1.30 Regional News (86126372)
1.40 The Weather Show (8250509)
1.45 Neighbours (1) (40212301)
2.10 Quirney (6051363)
2.15 Through the Keyhole (8727856)
3.20 Cleavef (1) (8861127)
3.30 Playdays (888127) 5.30 Pismo (5047214) 5.35 Doctor and Badger (1) (8193032) 4.10 Aca Ventura, Pet Detective (1) (4557011) 4.35 Clansia Explains It All (1) (7192127) 5.00 Newsround (1) (890059) 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (6725985)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (492479)
6.00 News and weather (228)
6.30 Regional News (851)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog Anne Robinson and Edward Elford follow up complaints against companies in the leisure industry (1) (5498)
7.30 Top of the Pops presented by the Spice Girls (1) (235)
8.00 X Cars Cameras follow two officers from Manchester police's Vehicle Crime Unit as they pursue a stolen articulated lorry and assist in a bust on a drugs dealer (1) (1818)
8.30 A Question of Sport with guests England rugby union captain Phil de Glanville, 400m runner Iwan Thomas, Sunderland striker Niall Quinn and yachtsman Ben Ainslie (1) (3853)
9.00 News (1) regional news and weather (6585)
9.30 CHOICE Drower's Gold Part one of a live-part western drama series about Celtic cowboys driving cattle from Wales to London in the 19th century with Geraldine James (1) (8761063)
10.25 Fatal Instinct (1993) Spoof of Hollywood erotic thrillers, with Armand Assante as a suave cop-turned-lawyer who finds he may have bitten off more than he can chew in the shape of three lascivious females, played by Sean Young, Kelly McGillis and Sherry Fenn. Directed by Carl Reiner (1) (4382924) WALSLEY: 10.28 The Gert Escape (575:63) 10.55 FILM: Fatal Instinct (1993) (18063061) 12.50-2.15am FILM: The Baby (1973) (4750389)
12.20am The (1973) Chiller with Ruth Roman and Armand Assante. Comedy thriller, a social worker who develops an unhealthy obsession with the case of a woman whose fully-grown son has the mind of a toddler. Directed by Ted Post (1) (2043635)
1.45 Weather (3873677)

6.00am Open University: Psychology in Action: Personal Selection (8809127) 6.25 Why Care? (8889334) 6.50 Population Transition in Italy (8379547) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (3261837) 7.30 Adventure of the Garden Fairies (3700303) 7.35 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3700303) 7.40 Eek! the Cat (3787566) 7.50 Busted Treasure (1583924) 8.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (3133837) 8.35 Young People's Special (3667721) 9.00 The Racooners (59011) 9.30 Sweet Valley High (5832278) 9.55 Pudding Peas (3490189) 10.00 Teletubbies (30943) 10.30 The Adventures of Skipper (85235) 11.00 Today's Gourmet (42276) 12.00 Making Tracks. Last in series (85547) 12.30pm Working Lunch (13188) 1.00 Garden Fairies (8513278) 1.05 Top Fables (8513547) 1.10 Summer Stock (1950) Musical, starring Judy Garland and Gene Kelly. A female farmer is bitten by the showbiz bug. Directed by Charles Walters (88739450) 3.00 News (1) and weather (8858633) 3.05 Making Babies (8442634) 3.35 News (5944127) 4.00 Blockbusters (5921721) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (5963435) 4.55 Father (1829189) 5.30 Today's Day (180) 6.00 The Simpsons (596235) 6.20 Star Trek: Kirk becomes the victim of a dark force (257030) 7.10 Great Railway Journeys: Hollywood screenwriter and actor Buck Henry braves the notorious Argentinean rail system as he travels from Buenos Aires to Patagonia (1) (268566)

6.00am GMTV (1486030) 9.25 Supermarket Sweep (1) (1) (6092108) 9.55 Regional News (1) (2410943) 10.00 The Time, the Place (34769) 10.30 This Morning (1) (82339214) 12.20pm Regional News (1) (8706837) 12.30 News (1) and weather (982856) 12.55 Our House (1) (8867547) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (7094853) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (1) (4029534) 2.50 Garden Calendar (1) (8869943) 3.20 News (1) (8869943) 3.25 Regional News (1) (8864214) 3.30 Rosie and Jim (8118301) 3.40 Sim Pig (7748108) 3.50 Cartoon Time (7735092) 4.00 The Treasure People (7026450) 4.15 Where's Wally? (4541450) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (8650943) 5.10 A Country Practice (7445786) 5.40 News (1) and weather (88585) 6.00 Home and Away (1) (402382) 6.25 HTV Weather (383633) 6.30 The West Tonight (1) (475) 7.00 Lucky Numbers Game show hosted by Shane Richie (1) (738) 7.30 Coronation Street: Natalie makes a confession to Kevin (1) (383) 8.00 The Bill: A hit-and-run incident leaves Rawton and Boulton at loggerheads over their priorities (1) (9214) 8.30 See You Friday: Greg and Lucy finally meet up at his best friend's birthday celebrations and, as their relationship is progressing, he decides to tell her his darkest secret (1) (8721)



Sir Anthony Hopkins narrates (6.00)

8.00 CHOICE Visions of Snowdonia: The work of a woman campaigning to improve conditions on her council estate (1) (216) 8.30 Gardeners' World: Gay Search tours a London garden. Alan Titchmarsh plants water lilies (1) (1295) 9.00 CHOICE The Fast Show: Quirney comedy (1) (1427) 9.30 Game On: Matt finally ventures out of the house with the gay psychologist Jason (1) (26633) 10.00 Have I Got News for You: Satirical current affairs quiz, hosted by Anne Robinson with team captains Ian Hogg and Paul Merton. The guests are Michael Parkinson and Martin Clunes (1) (763059) 11.15 Space: Above and Beyond (703832) 12.00 This Life (1) (14279677) 12.40am Cup Final (1991) with Moshe Ivgy and Muhammad Baqi. A heartwarming tale set against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, chronicling the relationship which develops between a member of the PLO and an Israeli prisoner during the World Cup final. Directed by Eran Riklis. In Arabic with Hebrew and English subtitles (881290) Ends at 2.35



A delinquent youth at play (9.00pm)

9.00 Kids Behaving Badly: Richard Madsley and Judy Finnigan host an hour-long debate on lawlessness among some sections of Britain's youth (8295) 10.00 News (1) and weather (86130) 10.30 Regional News (121189) 10.40 Sounds of the West: Punk to Avant Garde: Tracing the development of punk in Bristol's clubs (305672) 11.15 Streets of Gold (1988) with Klaus Maria Brandauer, Adrian Pasdar and Wesley Snipes. Drama about a former Russian boxer in New York who takes his drink habit, trains, raw young fighters in order to take revenge on his former trainer. Directed by Joe Roth (775479) 12.40am Bonkers (1) (4754948) 1.40 Club Nation (1) (5610832) 2.45 Young Einstein (1989) starring and directed by Yahoo Serious, with Odie Lee, Cleo and John Howard. Off-beat yarn telling the little-known story of Einstein's humble beginnings (433056) 4.20 Phenomena (1983/89/93) 4.35 Movie Club (1) (72409561) 5.00 Coronation Street (1) (25035) 5.30 News (85832)

As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 2.50-3.20 Secrets from the Secret Garden (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25-7.00 Central News (777479) 10.40 Film: American Flyers (55967634) 12.40am In Bed with Mother (8207122) 2.15 Baywatch (8267988) 3.05 Cyber Cafe (49877851) 3.30 Heiter Skeller (2131257) 4.15 Central Jobfinder (97468561) 5.20 Asian Eye (8202851)

WESTCOUNTRY As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8706837) 12.55 Home and Away (867547) 1.25 Wish You Were Here (22783479) 1.55 Blue Heelers (8205956) 2.50-3.20 Gardener's Diary (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7445786) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (18634) 10.30 Westcountry News (145769) 10.45 Film: Shadow of a Doubt (12663045)

MERIDIAN As HTV West except: 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7445786) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (18634) 6.59-7.00 Pollen Count (863301) 10.29 Pollen Count (537363) 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (145769) 10.45 Highlander (221498) 11.40 Wagway (164824) 5.00am Freshscreen (25035)

ANGIA As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

S4C Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (40905) 7.00 The Bigger Breakfast (81301) 9.30 Sater, Sister (1) (507138) 10.05 Handglider (1) (507138) 10.30 The Crystal Maze (1) (3485924) and 11.35 The Pink Panther (4745588) 12.05 California Dreams (1) (16633) 12.30pm Light Lunch (34301) 1.30 Cat and Mousse (86107634) 1.45 The Last Days of Dolwyn (1949, b/w) with Elyn Williams, Edith Evans and, in his screen debut, Richard Burton. A property developer who returns to his childhood village valley, determined to have it flooded to make a reservoir. Directed by Elyn Williams (34835818) 3.30 Moving People (1) (1) (585) 4.00 Filles-to-One (1) (522) 4.30 Countdown (1) (170588) 4.55 Field Lake (1) (1847585) 5.30 Animal Passions (856) 6.00 TFI Friday: The guests include Jackie Collins and Harry Hill (16276) 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (257450) 7.50 Best of Brass: The All England Masters Brass Band Championship (282160) 8.00 Garden Party: The experts visit the one-acre garden of a Leicestershire bungalow (1) (7856) 8.30 Brookside: A revenge attack has a devastating effect on Jacqui. Max and Susannah steel themselves to say a final farewell to Matthew and Emily (1) (8563) 9.00 Cybil: After persuading one daughter to live in her own apartment, Cybil now has to cope with her next daughter (1) (8295) 9.30 Spin City: Dead becomes her. The mayor's inapt new sign-language interpreter manages to insult the city's entire deaf community (1) (11721) 10.00 Fraser: Fraser frets over whether or not to do a commercial for a Chinese restaurant (1) (86112) 11.40 Wagway (164824) 5.00am Freshscreen (25035)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

ANGIA As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (8718572) 12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (8667547) 1.55 Murder, She Wrote (8230566) 2.50-3.20 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (2102585) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7445786) 6.25 Anglia Weather (39092) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (777479) 10.40 Film: Jeremiah Johnson (55967634)

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.52075 GHz; sound: 5.702 and 7.20 MHz.

6.00am 5 News Early (8206058) 7.30 Newsweek (501479) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8943041) 8.30 WideWorld: Examining the nature of childhood (8983672) 9.00 Espresso (2031924) 10.00 Exclusive (7518837) 10.30 Nancy Lurie (1) (860108) 11.00 Looza (8567108) 11.50 Double Espresso (3485438) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (8964160) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4083479) 1.00 5 News Update (8309498) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (3053721) 2.00 5's Company (7675450) 3.30 Our Film in Glamour (1980, b/w) with Genevieve Bujard, Burt Reynolds and Norman Macdonald. Comic tale of espionage. Directed by Carol Reed (8277547) 5.30 100 Per Cent (8746301) 6.00 Wildlife (1) (8743214) 6.30 Family Affairs: Jack lets a secret out of the bag (1) (8734585) 7.00 Exclusive (1861437) 7.30 Wildlife SOS: A seagull receives attention before being released into the wild, and a very ill fox is rescued by volunteers (8723450) 8.00 Attractions: Tim Vincent highlights some of Edinburgh's lesser-known attractions. Red or Dead designer Wayne Hemingway previews two exhibitions on British fashion (558045) 8.30 5 News (5011130)

6.00am 5 News Early (8206058) 7.30 Newsweek (501479) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8943041) 8.30 WideWorld: Examining the nature of childhood (8983672) 9.00 Espresso (2031924) 10.00 Exclusive (7518837) 10.30 Nancy Lurie (1) (860108) 11.00 Looza (8567108) 11.50 Double Espresso (3485438) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (8964160) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4083479) 1.00 5 News Update (8309498) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (3053721) 2.00 5's Company (7675450) 3.30 Our Film in Glamour (1980, b/w) with Genevieve Bujard, Burt Reynolds and Norman Macdonald. Comic tale of espionage. Directed by Carol Reed (8277547) 5.30 100 Per Cent (8746301) 6.00 Wildlife (1) (8743214) 6.30 Family Affairs: Jack lets a secret out of the bag (1) (8734585) 7.00 Exclusive (1861437) 7.30 Wildlife SOS: A seagull receives attention before being released into the wild, and a very ill fox is rescued by volunteers (8723450) 8.00 Attractions: Tim Vincent highlights some of Edinburgh's lesser-known attractions. Red or Dead designer Wayne Hemingway previews two exhibitions on British fashion (558045) 8.30 5 News (5011130)

6.00am 5 News Early (8206058) 7.30 Newsweek (501479) 8.00 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (8943041) 8.30 WideWorld: Examining the nature of childhood (8983672) 9.00 Espresso (2031924) 10.00 Exclusive (7518837) 10.30 Nancy Lurie (1) (860108) 11.00 Looza (8567108) 11.50 Double Espresso (3485438) 12.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (8964160) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4083479) 1.00 5 News Update (8309498) 1.05 Sunset Beach (1) (3053721) 2.00 5's Company (7675450) 3.30 Our Film in Glamour (1980, b/w) with Genevieve Bujard, Burt Reynolds and Norman Macdonald. Comic tale of espionage. Directed by Carol Reed (8277547) 5.30 100 Per Cent (8746301) 6.00 Wildlife (1) (8743214) 6.30 Family Affairs: Jack lets a secret out of the bag (1) (8734585) 7.00 Exclusive (1861437) 7.30 Wildlife SOS: A seagull receives attention before being released into the wild, and a very ill fox is rescued by volunteers (8723450) 8.00 Attractions: Tim Vincent highlights some of Edinburgh's lesser-known attractions. Red or Dead designer Wayne Hemingway previews two exhibitions on British fashion (558045) 8.30 5 News (5011130)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (57701) 9.00 Roys and Kathy Love (27564) 10.00 Andrew World (5112) 11.00 The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 1.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 2.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 3.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 4.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 5.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 6.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 7.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 8.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 9.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 10.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 11.00pm The Day After Tomorrow (78555) 12.00am The Day After Tomorrow (78555)

SKY 2

7.00pm Saturday (78555) 7.30 Sunday (57701) 8.00 Monday (57701) 8.30 Tuesday (57701) 9.00 Wednesday (57701) 9.30 Thursday (57701) 10.00 Friday (57701) 10.30 Saturday (78555) 11.00 Sunday (57701) 11.30 Monday (57701) 12.00 Tuesday (57701) 12.30 Wednesday (57701) 1.00 Thursday (57701) 1.30 Friday (57701) 2.00 Saturday (78555) 2.30 Sunday (57701) 3.00 Monday (57701) 3.30 Tuesday (57701) 4.00 Wednesday (57701) 4.30 Thursday (57701) 5.00 Friday (57701) 5.30 Saturday (78555) 6.00 Sunday (57701) 6.30 Monday (57701) 7.00 Tuesday (57701) 7.30 Wednesday (57701) 8.00 Thursday (57701) 8.30 Friday (57701) 9.00 Saturday (78555) 9.30 Sunday (57701) 10.00 Monday (57701) 10.30 Tuesday (57701) 11.00 Wednesday (57701) 11.30 Thursday (57701) 12.00 Friday (57701) 12.30 Saturday (78555) 1.00 Sunday (57701) 1.30 Monday (57701) 2.00 Tuesday (57701) 2.30 Wednesday (57701) 3.00 Thursday (57701) 3.30 Friday (57701) 4.00 Saturday (78555) 4.30 Sunday (57701) 5.00 Monday (57701) 5.30 Tuesday (57701) 6.00 Wednesday (57701) 6.30 Thursday (57701) 7.00 Friday (57701) 7.30 Saturday (78555) 8.00 Sunday (57701) 8.30 Monday (57701) 9.00 Tuesday (57701) 9.30 Wednesday (57701) 10.00 Thursday (57701) 10.30 Friday (57701) 11.00 Saturday (78555) 11.30 Sunday (57701) 12.00 Monday (57701) 12.30 Tuesday (57701) 1.00 Wednesday (57701) 1.30 Thursday (57701) 2.00 Friday (57701) 2.30 Saturday (78555) 3.00 Sunday (57701) 3.30 Monday (57701) 4.00 Tuesday (57701) 4.30 Wednesday (57701) 5.00 Thursday (57701) 5.30 Friday (57701) 6.00 Saturday (78555) 6.30 Sunday (57701) 7.00 Monday (57701) 7.30 Tuesday (57701) 8.00 Wednesday (57701) 8.30 Thursday (57701) 9.00 Friday (57701) 9.30 Saturday (78555) 10.00 Sunday (57701) 10.30 Monday (57701) 11.00 Tuesday (57701) 11.30 Wednesday (57701) 12.00 Thursday (57701) 12.30 Friday (57701) 1.00 Saturday (78555) 1.30 Sunday (57701) 2.00 Monday (57701) 2.30 Tuesday (57701) 3.00 Wednesday (57701) 3.30 Thursday (57701) 4.00 Friday (57701) 4.30 Saturday (78555) 5.00 Sunday (57701) 5.30 Monday (57701) 6.00 Tuesday (57701) 6.30 Wednesday (57701) 7.00 Thursday (57701) 7.30 Friday (57701) 8.00 Saturday (78555) 8.30 Sunday (57701) 9.00 Monday (57701) 9.30 Tuesday (57701) 10.00 Wednesday (57701) 10.30 Thursday (57701) 11.00 Friday (57701) 11.30 Saturday (78555) 12.00 Sunday (57701) 12.30 Monday (57701) 1.00 Tuesday (57701) 1.30 Wednesday (57701) 2.00 Thursday (57701) 2.30 Friday (57701) 3.00 Saturday (78555) 3.30 Sunday (57701) 4.00 Monday (57701) 4.30 Tuesday (57701) 5.00 Wednesday (57701) 5.30 Thursday (57701) 6.00 Friday (57701) 6.30 Saturday (78555) 7.00 Sunday (57701) 7.30 Monday (57701) 8.00 Tuesday (57701) 8.30 Wednesday (57701) 9.00 Thursday (57701) 9.30 Friday (57701) 10.00 Saturday (78555) 10.30 Sunday (57701) 11.00 Monday (57701) 11.30 Tuesday (57701) 12.00 Wednesday (57701) 12.30 Thursday (57701) 1.00 Friday (57701) 1.30 Saturday (78555) 2.00 Sunday (57701) 2.30 Monday (57701) 3.00 Tuesday (57701) 3.30 Wednesday (57701) 4.00 Thursday (57701) 4.30 Friday (57701) 5.00 Saturday (7855

